Annual Report of The Free Public Library of the City of Elizabeth







July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

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THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF ELIZABETH, N.J.

I I SOUTH BROAD STREET ELIZABETH, NJ 07202 Phone: 908-354-6060 Fax: 908-354-5845

Dear City of Elizabeth Residents and Officials:

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 brought more challenges and opportunities to the Elizabeth Public Library and the people we serve.

Our first Makers Day!

Sunday hours at the Elmora Branch!

Membership in the library consortium LMxAC!

And, perhaps most gratifying to all our visitors and our staff, our aging elevator was replaced, financed by accrued savings in our Capital Fund.

In addition, we re-energized our Teen Department with new staff, initiated a portable subscription to the *New York Times* and established procedures and policies for our Local History Room, the jewel of the Library. Fresh ideas brought us our first Artist-in-Residence project, with Paula Borenstein creating "Sanctuary" in the Library's Quiet Room, while the Reference Department offered an introduction to finding "free money," courtesy of the Foundation Center.

Famous people visited us: Judy Blume, researching her latest book, *In the Unlikely Event*, and Nick Bruel, author of the Bad Kitty books. Lady Elizabeth Carteret, who made her first appearance, in the person of Library Associate Aimee Puente-Fernandez, in late June 2014, continued her resurrection through the summer, as the City of Elizabeth commemorated its 350th anniversary. And not-so-famous people took advantage of our Citizenship classes (provided by Jewish Family Services) and our ever-growing array of Literacy programs offered by Literacy New Jersey. People gave blood, literally, at our first Blood Drive, conducted by the New York Blood Center.

As we embarked on those projects and more, the Trustees and I were pleased and gratified by the ongoing support of Mayor Bollwage and the City Council. Without their trust and confidence we would not be able to offer the citizens of Elizabeth the resources, opportunities and tools to enrich, improve and empower lives. I extend my thanks and appreciation to them, as does the Library Board.

We ended the year by unveiling our new, succinct Mission Statement:

Strengthening Community | Building Connections | Enriching Lives

As you browse through these pages, celebrate with us! We have achieved much, but still have much to accomplish.

Thank you for your ongoing support and appreciation of the Elizabeth Public Library.

Mary Faith Chmiel

Library Director



THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF ELIZABETH, N.J.

I I SOUTH BROAD STREET ELIZABETH, NJ 07202 Phone: 908-354-6060 Fax: 908-354-5845

As President of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the City of Elizabeth, I am pleased to offer this 2014-2015 Annual Report to our elected officials and the community.

This fiscal year was an exciting one, as we embraced new opportunities, like the Sunday opening of the Elmora Branch and membership in the library consortium LMxAC, while continuing to offer the services and resources upon which our community has come to depend.

Membership in the library consortium is especially significantly as it represents a direct response to the call for shared municipal services. Libraries are the original 'shared service," in that they have always shared books, music, and other materials with the communities they served. By joining LMxAC the Elizabeth Public Library is expanding the community with which it shares. LMxAC libraries spread across the three counties of Union, Middlesex and Monmouth, and the participating municipalities range from the small (Spotswood, Milltown) to the sprawling (Monroe Township, Old Bridge, Edison).

The impact of the consortium is easily measurable as, in just six months, our Library supplied over 8000 items to other member libraries, while we borrowed 1500 items. We have the materials—why not lend them? While the 1500 items borrowed means that there were potentially 1500 less items that we needed to purchase. We see this as a win/win equation for everyone!

We are proud to share this recap of FY 2014-2015 with you.

Eloy J. Delgado

Board President

New Jersey Makers Day

In March 2015, EPL participated in the first New Jersey Makers Day, a statewide event that celebrated the maker movement. The maker movement encourages entrepreneurs, small business owners, young professionals, teens, and children to share their interest in the culture of making and creating. An event taking place in more than 150 locations—over 100 of which were libraries—in all 21 Counties at the same time, Makers Day was one of the most successful and







popular programs ever held at Elizabeth Public Library.









On June 24, Elizabeth Library went LIVE with LMxAC. WE ARE NOW PART OF NEW JERSEY'S PREMIERE LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

The result: More materials and more options for our community.

Next time you request a book, it may come from North Brunswick,

New Brunswick, or South River libraries. Use your EPL card at Long Branch, or Old Bridge or Sayreville Public Libraries. You can also log on to the computer terminals at these libraries using your EPL Card.



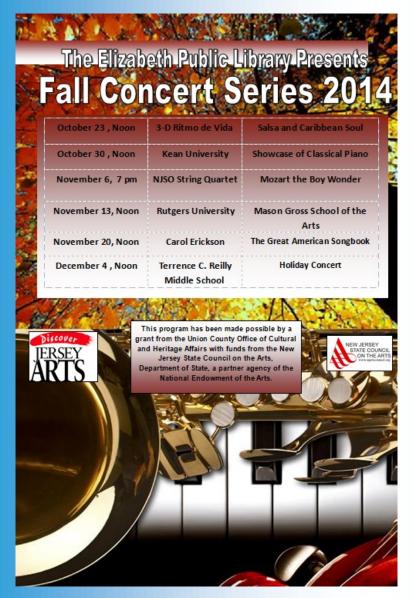
Take time to review the magazines you can read electronically through Zinio. A benefit of our consortium membership.



Considering streaming a movie, there are thousands available through Indieflix. You'll find movies from Brazil, China, Mexico, France, Portugal, and more. A benefit of our consortium membership.

NOONTIME FALL CONCERT SERIES





The Annual Noontime Fall Concert Series began on Thursday, October 23rd, with 3-D Ritmo de Vida, Caribbean Salsa and Soul.

Concerts included one evening performance, The Boy Mozart, with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Other performances showcased classical pianists from Kean University, and a Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts jazz musician.

Carol Erickson performed from the Great American Songbook, with selections from George Gershwin, Cole Porter and more.

On December 4th, a Holiday Concert with students from a local middle school completed the series.

Community Programs Throughout the Library



Grantseeking Information

Partnering with the Foundation Center, the Library provides resources necessary to find:

- ⇒ Grants for Foundations and Corporations
- ⇒ Grantmaking Public Charities
- ⇒ Foundation Grants to Individuals

Learn more about Grantseeking Resources for Non-Profits, Artists, and Students at a Library information session, or by speaking to one of our Reference Librarians.

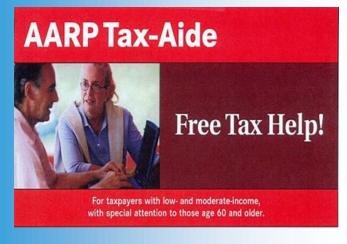
Becoming a U.S Citizen

In cooperation with Jewish Family Services, Elizabeth Public Library provides, in both English and Spanish:

- ⇒ Free Citizenship Classes
- ⇒ Preparation for Citizenship Exam
- ⇒ Questions and Answers regarding Petitions for Relatives
- ⇒ Asylum Requests
- ⇒ Removal/Deportation Defense
- ⇒ Work Permits
- ⇒ Adjustment of Status
- ⇒ Naturalization and other topics of interest



Taxes



Need assistance with your income tax return?

Help is as close as Elizabeth Public Library!

Every year, February through April, the Library hosts two income tax assistance sessions per week, courtesy of AARP volunteers.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am to 1 pm.

Educational Programs Through the Library



Literacy Tutoring

Would you like to speak English?
Tutors and classes are available at
the Library, courtesy of Literacy
New Jersey.

Call 908-486-1777 or speak to a Librarian at our Reference Desk.

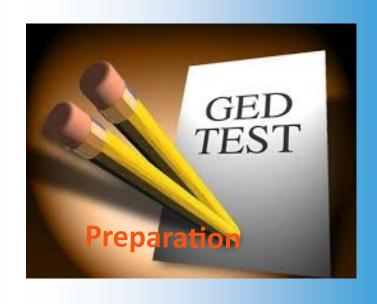
General Educational Development(GED)

You did not graduate from high school, but want a certificate equivalent to the traditional high school diploma?

The Elizabeth Public Library and Literacy New Jersey offer TASC/GED Preparation Classes.

11 South Broad Street, 3rd Floor Mondays and Thursdays





Pronunciator: The World's Largest Language-Learning Service

The Elizabeth Public Library offered workshops on how to use *Pronunciator* to learn over 80 languages spoken by 95% of the world's population. Students learn through activities, drills and quizzes that have been developed by language educators, covering all levels of vocabulary and grammar, from basic to advanced study.

Mayor J. Christian Bollwage & the City of Elizabeth would like to invite you to a:

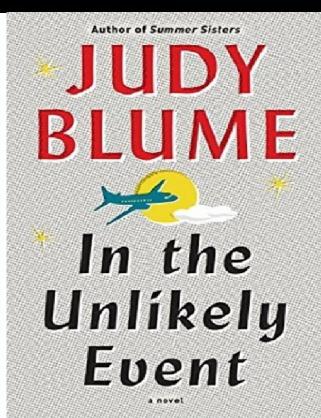
Q& A AND JUDY BLUME BOOK SIGNING JUDY BLUME

Iconic author Judy Blume returned to her adolescent home of Elizabeth, NJ, for the setting for her latest novel for adults, In the Unlikely Event.

In the winter of 1951-52, three passenger airplanes taking off from Newark Airport crashed in residential neighborhoods in Elizabeth. The memory of these tragic incidents lay dormant in Judy's imagination for nearly 60 years, to be resurrected and examined in her most recent work of fiction.

Judy sought research materials and assistance from the staff and the archives of the Elizabeth Public Library Local History Room.

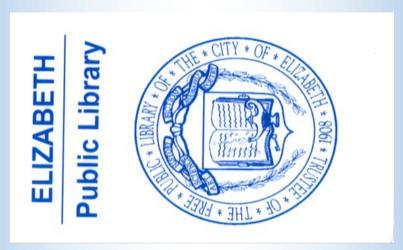
The staff and trustees of the Elizabeth Public Library thank Judy Blume for her generous donation to the Library in support of programming for children!





Celebrate Your Library Card! September is Library Card Sign-up Month

Throughout September, the library hosted a number of activities, including weekly raffles for patrons who registered for library cards or took the time to update their library card information with an e-mail address. Patrons who registered, or who updated their library card information, were entered in weekly drawings for free DVD rentals or fine amnesty, in addition being able to receive library news and notices via email.



Connect with your Library

Libraries are still the best when it comes to e-book borrowing.

At least according to the Wall Street Journal.

"haven't just been sitting around shushing people while the Internet drove them into irrelevance, but have created e-book collections you can read on your iPad, and often even on a Kindle. You don't have to walk into a branch or risk an overdue fine. And they're totally free."









Hispanic Heritage Month



Hispanic Heritage Month runs from September 15 to October 15. Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

In 2014, The Elizabeth Public Library celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a variety of programs, including crafts, bi-lingual story times, and matinee movies hosted by the Children's Department.



Special Events

Governor Livingston visits the Library.

Courtesy of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, Governor Livingston, in the person of actor Bob Gleason, traveled to the Library on October 9 to discuss his participation in the Revolution that rocked New World in 1776-1783. The inaugural governor of our fair state, the governor was also a signer of the Declaration of Independence.



The Fabric of Our Lives

Meet Artist Paula

Borenstein.

Sign the Guest book, View the Completed Project.

Using fabric and found objects, Paula recreated the immigrant story of her parents, refugees from the holocaust. How would you tell your family's story?

Opening Reception, October 15
Closing Reception, December 18
View the work in progress daily.
2nd Floor Broad St. entrance



www.elizpl.org/localhistory.html

LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

In the summer of 2014, work began on implementing the recommendations outlined in the final report produced in the Spring of 2014 from the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) offered through the New Jersey Historical Commission, http://nj.gov/state/historical/dos his grants.html#capes

Though the Elizabeth Local History Room was created in 2007, the CAPES evaluation brought about the first time the collection was professionally evaluated and guidelines were provided to formalize the collection as a research archive. Between July 2014 and June 2015, three separate collections were organized from the materials contained within the Local History Room: Local History (NJR), Genealogical Reference (GR), and the Elizabeth Public Library Archive. In the fall of 2014, policies were created covering topics such as Collection Development, Research Access, and Photographic Reproduction and Publication. Copies of the policies can be accessed through the Local History Rooms website: www.elizpl.org/localhistory.html

Collections

Local History Collection (NJR) is comprised of books, pamphlets, maps, photographs and two specialized vertical file collections covering the history of the city of Elizabeth, Union County, and New Jersey. From July 2014—June 2015, 2456 individual items were catalogued, including 10 maps showing property lots for sale from the mid 1800's. In addition, online indexes were created for microfilm collections and work was begun on the creation of an Elizabeth Vertical File Index and Genealogical Vertical File Index.

Genealogical Reference Collection (GR) is comprised of books cov-

ering general genealogical information that may be of value for genealogists or individuals beginning to research their ancestors. Examples of materials contained in this collection include Daughters of the American Revolution lineage books, American Genealogical Biographical Index, The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy, and Americans of Jewish Descent. Family specific genealogies are held in the Local History Room as part of the Local History Collection. Between July 2014 and June 2015, 443 individual items were catalogued for this collection. This collection is housed just outside the Local History Room entrance to the left.

Elizabeth Public Library Archive is comprised of printed materials covering the history, departments, and programs of the library as well as photographs and scrapbooks. Ma-**Public Library** terials held in various areas of the Library were collected and stored within the Local History Room for future cataloging and indexing.



Sheridan House, County Courthouse, and First Presbyterian Church, Broad Street. Blizzard of 1888



Genealogical Reference Collection, 3rd Floor, Elizabeth

Local History Room

Special Programs and Activities

October 3, 2014: A Founder For All: Abraham Clark, signer of the Declaration of Independence book discussion with author Barbara Baltrinic (http://baltrinic.wix.com/bbaltrinic) followed by wreath laying at Clark Family plots at First Presbyterian Church cemetery.

October 11, 2014: First time exhibiting at Archives Day at the Monmouth County Library, Manalapan, NJ.

October 29, 2015: Ghosts of Union County program presented by Aimee Fernandez-Puente, Library Associate for Local History and Reference.

April 2015: Work with Elizabeth City Hall on historical video for Judy Blume book launch event in June for her new title *In the Unlikely Event*. Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=8pLgJSxrwF4

May 11, 2015: Judy Blume visits the Local History Room with *New York Times* reporter Susan Dominus and looks at images of Elizabeth during the 1950's as well as through the Battin Yearbook

of Ms. Blume's graduating class. The resulting article can be found at: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/24/magazine/judy-blume-knows-all-your-secrets.html

May 14, 2015: The Olmstead Historic Landscape Legacy in New Jersey presented by Kathleen Gallop. This program is funded by the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

http://njch.org/programs/hsb/



Local History Room Statistics

July 2014—June 2015

Items Catalogued: 2899 (GR 443, NJR 2456)

*Statistics Collection for visitors and remote research requests began October 2014 after Board Approval of final policies in September 2014.

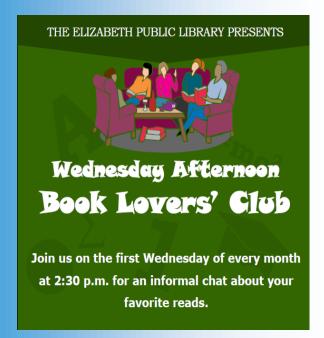
Research Visits: 100 visitors

Remote Research Requests: 80 requests

Donations: 35 items

Programs

The Main Library and its Branches serve as meeting places for residents and visitors to the city of Elizabeth. All programs offered at the Library whether staffed presented or offered by professional performers are free.



Book Lovers' Club is an informal group that began meeting the first Wednesday of the month in October. Attendees bring one or two of their favorite fiction or non-fiction books to share with the rest of the group. It's all about starting a conversation and a connection.



Need Help Finding a Job?

The Reference staff offers job searching help. Come to the library and learn how to find everything you need for a successful job search. Job & Career Accelerator™ is an easy-to-use online application with over five million up-to-the-minute local and national job postings.

Children's Department



Pictured here are events from the Children's Summer Reading Program.

Children's Librarians Melinda Gauld-Elichko and Rachelle Klingle provided various activities for children at the Main Library and its branches. A big shout-out goes to library assistants Martha Cardenas, Dora Viegas and Maria Lopez who made things happen at Elmora, Elizabethport and LaCorte!





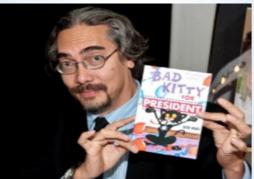


Other Programs throughout the Library

Tea Party

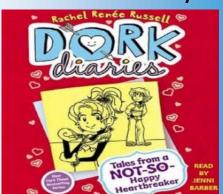


Authors Night with Nick Bruel (author of Bad Kitty)



Calling All Dorks!

It's a Dork Diaries Party!



Children's Department



March 2015. Snowy weather forced the postponement of the Dr. Seuss Party at the Main Library by one week;
43 patrons attended the rescheduled event.

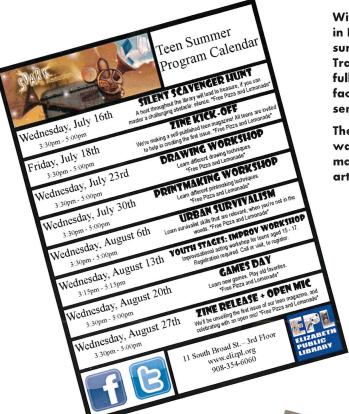
Over Easter break, a recycled art contest, a craft workshop for kids age 4 to 12, showed participants how to make flowers from recycled bottles.



The Summer Reading Club was a true success. There was a 29.6% increase in registrations and a 24.1% increase in participants.
Even though only one additional program was given, there was a 28.4% increase in attendees. The best part of all, there was a 50.5% increase in the number of books read!

The Union County Sheriff's Office presented a special program featuring their K-9 Unit which drew an audience of 35.

TEENS DEPARTMENT



With this year came a big structural change in EPL's Teens Department, marking our first summer programming series designed by Tracy Robinson, and Frank Castro. A new, full schedule of events brought in lots of new faces, and gave the department a revived sense of spirit.

The crowning achievement of the summer was the first issue of our collaborative teen magazine: "Teen Zine Vol. 1," which included artistic contributions from 18 Elizabeth teens.



Summer Statistics: 35 programs, 313 participants





ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY 2014-2015

TEENS DEPARTMENT



During the school year, the fun continued. We hosted a wide variety of programs, including "Japanese Bookbinding," "Pendulum Painting," and a "Manga Drawing Workshop." Our popular "Anime Club" was born, and "Teen Game Night" picked up steam, but most importantly—

2015 marked the first annual "NJ Makers Day," which was said to have been our most successful library-wide event, in recent history!

Join us for the first annual

"I never knew that you could have this much fun in a *library!*"
-young patron, on NJ MAKERS DAY















ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY 2014-2015

Branch Highlights Elmora Branch

Elmora had a variety of programs all year around. One special one was provided by the

Turtle Back Zoo. The Turtle Back Zoo entertained old and young with Animal Tales on Sunday, November 9, 2014.

24 children and 14 adults were in attendance. Two stories were read by Turtle Back Zoo staff members to the children, followed by a presentation of animals featured in the stories. These included

On Sunday, May 17, 2015, Elmora held a program about the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Marty Schneit, a licensed New York City Tour Guide took everyone on a wonderful adventure back in time! Twenty-eight persons were in attendance for this program. Marty was funny and eloquent. From the

a snake, an owl, a tarantula, and a turtle.

comfort of their seats, the audience took a trip to the Lower East Side and visited Schimmel's Knishes, Katz's Deli, and Ansche Chesed.

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Book SaleElmora Branch Library



Starts: Sunday, December 14, 2014 Ends: Saturday, January 10, 2015

Have the holiday mall crowds got you all heated up? Well cool down and browse for good reads at a great price, at your community library's book sale.

\$0.50: Paperbacks \$1.00: Hardcovers Elmora Library 740 West Grand St. Elizabeth, NJ 07202 908-353-4820







E' P O R



On March 21, 2015, at the first New Jersey Makers Day, children had fun making their own ice cream at E' Port Branch.

To open the summer reading program, Mr. Ray was the special guest at Elizabethport Branch on June 22, 2015. Mr. Ray serenaded the 32 persons in attendance with songs of heroes.





L A C O R T



Make Your Own Ice Cream was a cool way to wrap up summer reading. 40 persons were in attendance to mix all of the ingredients together, and to taste some fresh vanilla ice cream.

Mr. John Andrews of the New Jersey Astronomical Association presented "History of the Discovery of Dinosaurs" on July 18, 2014, at LaCorte. The presentation revealed the way persons first thought dinosaurs looked in the early to mid-nineteenth century, and Mr. Andrews discussed the display of fossils found in Haddonfield, NJ. 39 persons were in attendance.





Technical Services

In effort to maintain a fresh, current and up-to-date collection of materials, books and DVDs are added as well as removed from Library shelves.

At the end of June 2015, the Library held:

Books: 301,951

DVDs: 9,058

Audio: 5,204

Periodicals: 1,816



Reference

Renew Your Life: Get Organized!

Don't let clutter control your life!

On Saturday May 9, 2015, Union County author and speaker Mary Carlomagno shared her tips on how to embrace simplicity and create an organized and clutter free home.

△ New York Blood Center

Tuesday July 29, 2014
1:00pm—7:00pm
Main Library Auditorium
11 South Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
(908) 354-6060
www.elizpl.org

BLOOD DRIVE

Blood can save life!

In 2014, the Elizabeth Public Library, in partnership with New York Blood Center, organized a blood drive at the Library. Blood transfusions are of vital importance in advanced medical care. A unit of blood can be separated into individual components to save multiple lives.





Grants

The Free Public Library of Elizabeth received Per Capita state aid in the amount of \$65,181 in FY 2014-2015. Additional grant funding was received from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, in support of our annual Fall Concert Series. The New Jersey Council for the Humanities funded additional programming, while a Union County HEART grant supported our Artist-in-Resident, Paula Borenstein.







Funding

Most our Library funding derives from the City of Elizabeth, and the taxes paid by businesses and property owners. State law mandates the *minimum* percentage of municipal/city taxes that must be expended to support a public library.

The Elizabeth Public Library is considerably blessed to have the confidence and support of our Mayor and City Council, who provide funds above the minimum required by law, so that we may accomplish all that we have described in this Annual Report.

The Library Administration works hard to expend our funds as prudently and productively as possible. The Library Board of Trustees extends due diligence in supervising Library expenditures and works with the Administration to find cost saving ways to stretch our budget.

Moneys earned through book sales, overdue fines and other fees help us fulfill our mission without unduly burdening taxpayers.

Current Fund Schedule Of Cash Receipts And Disbursements As Of June 2015

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF ELIZABETH

CURRENT FUND

SCHEDULE OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015						
Balance, June 30, 2014			\$	1,879,643		
Receipts: Municipal Contribution State Aid Fines and Fees Miscellaneous Receipts Interest Miscellaneous Reserves	\$	3,927,452 65,181 31,409 1,000 1,230 120,604	-			
<u>Total Receipts</u>			\$	4,146,876 6,026,519		
Disbursements: Budget Expenditures Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses Miscellaneous Reserves	\$	3,980,181 27,605 252,296				
Total Disbursements				4,260,082		
Balance, June 30, 2015			\$	1,766,437		
CASH RECONCILIATION - JUNE 30, 2015						
Balance Per Statement: Wells Fargo Bank - Checking Accounts: Operating Account Add: Outstanding Deposit Less: Outstanding Checks Per List on File	\$	896,570 - 6,364	\$	890,206		
Payroll Account Less: Outstanding Checks Per List on File	\$	13,023 5,554		7,469		
State Unemployment Account				55,661		
Bank of America - Checking Account: Fees and Fines Account	\$	191,026	\$	191,026		
Santander Bank - Money Market Account: Fees and Fines Account Add: Deposit in Transit	\$	620,597 1,431		622,028		
Petty Cash				47		
BOOK BALANCE			\$	1,766,437		

Statement Of Revenues And Other Income As Of June 30, 2015

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF ELIZABETH

CURRENT FUND

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND OTHER INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

		FINAL BUDGET	RECEIVED	EXCESS OR (DEFICIT)
Budget Revenues Municipal Contribution State Library Aid (Per Capita) Interest Income Miscellaneous Revenues	\$	3,927,452 \$ 55,000 6,200	3,927,452 \$ 65,181 1,230 1,000	- 10,181 (4,970) 1,000
Fines and Fees: Non-Resident Fees				
Polls		70	50	(20)
Book Sale		98	49	(49)
Computer Printing		1,000	1,332	332
Overdue Books/AV		8,000	9,651	1,651
Lost Books		18,000	10,114	(7,886)
Library Card Replacement Fees		1,500	1,196	(304)
Microfilm Reader Printer		1,000	1,740	740
Photocopier Machine		200		(200)
Video Rental		3,500	3,123	(377)
Local History Room		8,000	3,559	(4,441)
Auditorium		-	375	375
Additional	-	14	220	220
Sub Total Fines and Fees		41,368	31,409	(9,959)
Total Budget Revenues	\$	4,030,020 \$	4,026,272 \$	(4,748)