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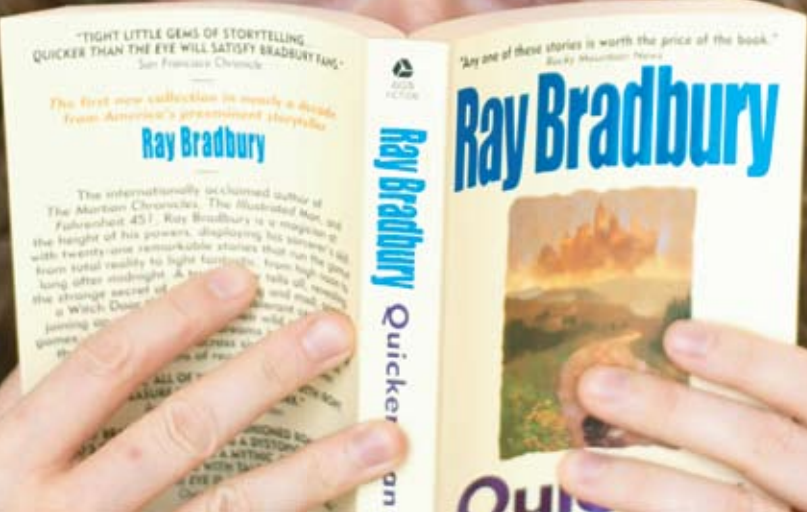


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# Huntsville - Madison County Public Library



*Annie is a second-generation HMCP  
librarian with a passion for short  
stories and non-fiction.*



## 2007 in review

# ★ Public libraries are about more than just books.

We are community centers. We are sources of knowledge, arts, and culture. We provide safe places to study, research, and learn.

Look inside to see what we're doing to make Madison County a great place to live, work, and read.

# ★ What's new this year?

18,032 more members  
46,885 more materials  
16,652 more catalog records  
3 more book clubs  
50 more computers  
4 more self-check machines  
2 microfilm machines added to the Huntsville Heritage Room

# ★ New to the Archives

African-American newspapers (1865-1920) on 50 rolls of microfilm  
**Thiokol Collection:** papers dating back to 1948 from Huntsville's first aerospace contractor  
Papers of Sarah Huff Fisk, local historian

# the year in review

583,180  
items in our collection

1,915,548  
circulation in 2007

12  
branches

129,524  
patrons

154  
employees

## ★ Book Groups

Our 15 book groups meet at 7 of our branches and explore a variety of genres: non-fiction, contemporary fiction, sci-fi, romance, and African-American literature.

## ★ Online Resources

Our patrons used 2,311 e-books, performed 111,925 online database searches, viewed 260,238 online database records, and renewed 143,397 books from home.

## ★ Readers to the Rescue

5,010 kids and teens signed up for our 2007 summer reading program, *Readers to the Rescue*. 436 programs and a total attendance of 20,284 later, Madison County kids and teens donated over 3 tons of cat food to Forgotten Felines, books to Huntsville Therapy Partners, and a dairy cow to a Third World village through Heifer International—all through reading!

## ★ Art Gallery

During the year, our atrium art gallery featured art from the Huntsville Art League, Carole Esk'ridge, Judith Fields, Jerry Brown, Jack Dempsey, Don Broome, and Lenore Corey.

## ★ Behind the Scenes

We processed 2,842 book orders, added 48,828 new items to our collection, and transferred 301,089 items between branches to meet patron requests.

## ★ The Big Read 2007

Our 2007 'Big Read' book was the beloved Alabama classic *To Kill A Mockingbird*. We offered 62 programs ranging from author events to movies, speakers, and book discussions in multiple languages. The total attendance of over 5,000 more than doubled the attendance of our award-winning 2006 'Big Read.'

**Fact: we received the John Cotton Dana award, the highest public relations honor for libraries, for our 2006 'Big Read' campaign.**

## ★ Some of the authors we welcomed to the library over the past 12 months:



Dr. Bill Bass



Carl Hiaasen



Joshilyn  
Jackson



Jon Jefferson



Cassandra  
King



Jarrett  
Krosoczka



Sena Jeter  
Naslund



Kimberla  
Lawson Roby

# ★ How do you measure a library?

The effects of a library are as hard to calculate as they are to deny. What do you get when you multiply 154 employees by 12 branches by the 28,068 hours we were open in 2007? No matter the math, the end result is clear: a county that looks to its library system for more than just books. We are arts, culture, and literature, and Madison County just wouldn't be Madison County without us.



## ★ Computer Classes      ★ AL Virtual Library

We held 206 free classes in our Computer Training Center. As a result, 975 people gained new computer skills.

This amazing digital research resource was used 1,850,347 times in 2007 by 383,177 users, many of them students.

Quick facts: we subscribed to 1,219 magazines, provided 352,434 photocopies, made 1,299 loans to other libraries, and scanned 3,420 new photos into the HMCPL Digitization Project in 2007.

*Lexie is part of our Outreach Department. She completed her Master's degree in Library Science in 2007.*

412,148  
visits to our website

223,033  
public computer uses

5,010  
summer reading signups

20,284  
summer reading attendance