



Hennepin County Library Merger

PROGRESS REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2009

Hennepin County Library continues to be an essential institution to the community during a time of economic challenges. Despite difficult budget reductions, Hennepin County Library is united and moving forward to provide residents with the resources they need to succeed and lead productive lives.

Here is a snapshot of merger milestones that occurred March through Aug. 2009:

- The Library Board approves a new mission statement: Hennepin County Library's mission is to nourish minds, transform lives and build community together.
- Two catalogs become one, resulting in a single catalog containing more than 5 million books, CDs, DVDs, and other items. This robust catalog gives customers access to the nation's 12th largest public library collection.
- Unified lending rules are established.
- Network consolidation begins. As of the end of August, seven Minneapolis libraries are now part of the consolidated Hennepin County Library network, which includes new public and staff computers, phones, and pay-for-print and PC reservation applications. All libraries will be on the same network by the end of 2009.
- Capital projects are approved for Northeast and Nokomis libraries, the first in Minneapolis since the merger.
- Collections and Special Services departments are restructured to create the integrated departments of Collection Management Services, Cataloging and Handling, and Special Services (Special Collections/Bindery and Preservation/Interlibrary Loan).
- Interlibrary loan policies and procedures are unified.
- Merged suburban and Minneapolis At Home Service begins.
- Seven community conversations are held as a result of a Library Board resolution to seek input as to the level of interest of neighborhood residents in local library support. The conversations revealed residents are interested in being involved with their local library. Meetings are scheduled for this fall to continue the discussion. Working together, we will determine next steps for this valuable grassroots support.