Many new exciting library services were launched in 2016 by the Ocean County Library through advances in technology and digital materials. Ocean County Library’s Chat/Text Reference Service, connected library users in real-time to an Ocean County Library librarian through their smartphone, tablet, laptop, or other personal computer device. Ocean County Library supported Science Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEM) education with the opening of two new MakerSpaces called Sparky’s Lab at the Toms River and Jackson branches. Sparky’s Labs provide access to 3D printers, robotics, crafting machinery, and more. Six portable MakerSpaces called Make Me kits traveled to all of our library branches to spark creativity in children and teens between the ages of 6 to 14 thanks to a $7,500 Curiosity Creates grant from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) made possible through a generous donation from the Walt Disney Company. The Make Me kits are also used by our librarians serving children and teens to provide outreach programs throughout Ocean County.

New digital library services were introduced in 2016. Hoopla is a groundbreaking digital media service that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV. Brainfuse provides live online homework help, writing assistance, and more from Brainfuse’s tutors. Students and tutors meet in the Brainfuse Online Classroom. Tutors guide students through homework challenges and help them develop the necessary skills to complete assignments on their own. Brainfuse’s ESL offering includes live tutoring for ESL students. Brainfuse also offers a comprehensive library of proprietary practice tests such as the SAT, ACT, GED, ASVAB, TOEFL, and more. More Adult Learning Centers provides foundational, career-enhancing skills to job-seekers including resume assistance.

Through the Ocean County Library’s partnership with The New Jersey State Library’s Taking Book and Braille Center (TBBC) and the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NJCBVI), and the Library Equal Access Program (LEAP), the library expanded library services for Ocean County residents with vision impairments. Ocean County Library received important grants in 2016, including a $30,000 New Jersey Libraries Career Connections grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and a $25,000 grant from the OceanFirst Foundation through the Ocean County Library Foundation, which funded English as a Second Language classes at several library branches.

Our library customers enjoyed special events featuring such authors as The James J. Mancini Memorial Author Program which featured New York Times bestselling author Adriana Trigiani, and former Rutgers defensive lineman Eric LeGrand, who visited the library to share his inspiring story of finding purpose in pain and facing setbacks with strength through his book Believer: The Victorious Story of Eric LeGrand.

The Ocean County Library is a truly multicultural institution and we are inclusive and understanding of the communities we serve and committed to providing library services for everyone. Our goal is to have a positive and lasting effect on every individual who uses the Ocean County Library.

SUSAN QUINN, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
The governing body for the Ocean County Library is the seven-member Ocean County Library Commission. The Ocean County Library Commission is appointed by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Ocean County Library Commission is responsible for the oversight of library funds, property, and equipment, and determining of policies and rules governing library services in promotion of the libraries interests.

2016 Ocean County Library Commission*  
Sal Baglio, Chairperson  
Bonnie R. Peterson, Vice Chairperson  
Christopher J. Marks, Member  
Heather Richards-Barone, Member  
Harry J. Mancini, Member  
Ruthanne Scaturro, Ocean County Library Foundation-Liaison  
Susan L. Hutber, Ocean County Library Administration*  

*as of December 31, 2016

Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders since 1981 and  
Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari has served as a member of the  
Ocean County Library Commission Chairperson  
Joseph H. Vicari, Ocean County Library Freeholder Liaison  

*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances - Regulatory Basis  
For the year ended December 31, 2016  
(With comparative data for December 31, 2015)  

Revenue:  
Sales 10,629,274  
Fringe benefits 6,089,053  
Administrative 1,287,845  
Materials 3,964,381  
Programs and public relations 141,136  
Professional services and expenses 18,620,089  
Administrative services 1,507,361  
Supplies 66,827  
Maintenance - building and grounds 113,761  
Maintenance - equipment and vehicles 3,480,876  
Utilities 419,155  
Technology 1,361,593  
Building replacement funds 4,642  
4,211,173  
Transfer to appropriation reserves  
Total revenues $3,554,671  
$2,016,319  
$3,141,593  
$283,056  

Expenditure:  
Goods and services 610,072  
Contribution to funds 7,807,532  
Additional assessment tax 173,569  
Mortgage interest 40,000  
Total expenses $5,271,649  
$5,202,215  
$102,443  
$3,120,020  

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances  
For the year ended December 31, 2016  
(With comparative data for December 31, 2015)  

January 1, 2016  
Fund balance  
$3,151,703  
$2,330,980  
$30,491,880  
$283,356,658  

Grant revenue  
Added assessment tax  
Transfer to appropriation reserves  
Total  
4,232,007