



## Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon  
71 Main Street, Building #1  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE: December 22, 2020**

**Contact: Zach Rich, Freeholder**

[Zach.rich@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:Zach.rich@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

## **Hunterdon County Library Joins Morris Automated Information Network, Offers Additional Items and Improved Services To Patrons**

The Hunterdon County Library, as part of its continuing commitment to provide the best possible service to patrons and despite the challenges that the current health crisis presents, will be joining M.A.I.N. (Morris Automated Information Network), in January of 2021, in order to broaden patron choices, Freeholder Zach Rich reported at a recent Freeholder Meeting.

Freeholder Rich, the Board's liaison to the County Library Commission said, "Joining the M.A.I.N. consortium will bring with it a host of improvements for library services which will be available to patrons. An additional 2.5 million items from other libraries in Warren, Somerset and Morris counties, gives library card holders a plethora of choices that were unavailable until this merger."

Hunterdon County Library users will be able to walk into any M.A.I.N. library and take out materials or have them delivered to a Hunterdon County Library branch or affiliate.

"We are very excited to be able to provide additional access to print materials for our residents through shared services," Library Director James Keehbler said. "The world of knowledge available through Hunterdon County Library will be even bigger and more comprehensive."

Other benefits of joining the M.A.I.N. consortium include more efficient library processes, increased access to digital resources, group purchasing discounts and increased staff development opportunities.

Phillip S. Berg, Executive Director of M.A.I.N. said, "M.A.I.N. is thrilled to welcome the Hunterdon County Library into its growing ranks. Libraries have acted as shared services pioneers in New Jersey for many decades now, and this is a wonderful example of that tradition continuing. By working closely together, all users at M.A.I.N. member libraries benefit greatly."

Freeholder Rich concluded, "The Freeholder Board and I are grateful to James Keehbler and the entire library staff for their consistent dedication to keeping library materials and programs available to patrons throughout this pandemic, and also for upgrading so many services to a digital format which gives increased access to patrons with WIFI at their home."

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The library staff are currently working with M.A.I.N. on the transition. The switch over is currently scheduled for January 9th –11th. After which, the shared catalog will be available for library patrons to request materials from this new shared collection.

As 2021 progresses, be sure to continue to check the library website, <https://hclibrary.us>, for other updates.