Annual Report 2018

READ EXPLORE ACCESS DISCOVER
DISCOVER THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE
We welcome and support the development of a lifelong interest in the pursuit of knowledge through reading and learning. We serve as a primary lending library and community center promoting library use by all, facilitated by our collaborative association of branch and member libraries. We aim to help our patrons meet their educational, recreational, and cultural needs through our extensive collections, professional services, information resources, and innovative programming. We are committed to providing automated access to a vast network of electronic content resources. We strive to be a place to dream, a place to learn, a place to mingle, and a place to realize one’s potential.
Monmouth County Library Headquarters was the first library in the State of New Jersey to fly the KIA (Killed in Action) flag to honor our veterans who gave their lives in service to our country. Commemorative concerts were performed by the 63rd Army Brass Band Quintet and The Belle Tones. Veterans were continually honored throughout the year with book discussions and musical events.

Through ongoing partnerships with The New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development and the New Jersey State Library, the Career Connections grant, now in its third year, was extended through May 2019 at the Headquarters and Eastern Branch Libraries. This grant funding continues to provide dedicated help to unemployed and underemployed job-seekers through New Jersey Career Connections guidance, seminars, and Career Connections web navigation by trained library staff. Two monthly programs are offered in support of the grant, along with innovative teen employment programming.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History selected the Monmouth County Library to receive a Revisiting the Founding Era Programming Grant. In support of this prestigious honor, awarded to only 100 libraries across the country, two adult history programs and one teen history event were offered to patrons.

The Monmouth County Library was nominated for recognition by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), an organization whose mission is to advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grant making, research, and policy development.

By partnering in a Monmouth County initiative, Monmouth County Libraries collected 3.5 tons of food for Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean, who provide the resources people need to become self-sufficient. Fulfill also offered a program to assist patrons with signing up for health insurance.

Initial steps in a multi-year renovation began at Monmouth County Library Headquarters to improve the library’s electrical infrastructure, which will enable patrons to use electronic devices more comfortably in a modern facility.

Monmouth County Library Headquarters was voted “One of the Best” by the Asbury Park Press Readers’ Choice Awards.

Monmouth County Libraries were proud to co-sponsor several New Jersey Library Association programs throughout the year.

Arabic was added to our award-winning Literature of World Languages book discussion groups which have been active for over 17 years.
Looking back at the accomplishments and offerings of the Monmouth County Library System at the end of each year brings a great feeling of accomplishment for me as Chairperson of the Monmouth County Library Commission. It is such a delight that each year so many more residents and visitors to Monmouth County take advantage of the great and varied resources we offer, not only within the walls of our 13 branch and 14 member facilities, but also electronically. We are happy we are able to provide an abundance of information and opportunity to library cardholders in their homes, offices or wherever they may be.

Reviewing the activities of 2018, in particular, has been heartwarming for me. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Eastern Branch Library in Shrewsbury in October, enabling me to become nostalgic about the early years of my service on the Board, the struggles we had in providing the latest and most modern library facilities while continuing to grow and meet the needs of a rising population in Monmouth County itself.

At the same time we were celebrating the history of the library, the Commission was planning and implementing major renovations to the Headquarters Library in Manalapan. The initial steps for a $2.4 million upgrade and renovation were underway.

Shortly after the establishment of the Eastern Branch in 1968, construction of the new Headquarters Library, and a move from Freehold to Manalapan, was completed. This enabled Monmouth County residents in both eastern and western communities to have better access to the programs, activities, books, and lectures offered at both facilities. The 50th anniversary of construction in Shrewsbury showed how far the Commission has come from its early days, when the Freehold facility and bookmobile were the early steps in providing the best of culture, education, and research to a growing and receptive public.

The anniversary celebration in 2018 was held throughout October, beginning with trackless train rides, an exotic animal show, classic cars, and a demonstration by an award-winning team of NJROTC cadets from MAST. That was in addition to information tables, photo ops, and an art display of works by very talented library employees. Celebrations continued throughout the month with a foreign film festival, guest speakers that ranged from former NFL football great Mike Attardi, a Long Branch Athletic Hall of Famer, to the highly respected lecturer and historian Paul Zigo, who spoke on President Woodrow Wilson and other topics. It culminated at the end of the month, when Congressman Chris Smith presented the Commission with an American flag that had flown over the US Capitol on October 13, the 50th anniversary date.

Through the thoughtfulness of a most generous bequest, we were also able to announce that renowned sculptor Franco Minervini, whose works are known for their individualistic attention and true representation of accuracy, had designed a sculpture for the front lawn of the Eastern Branch Library. We look forward to the dedication of this monumental work.
I was humbled on the anniversary of Eastern Branch when the library dedicated and named the Renee Becker Swartz Children’s Library; I celebrated this honor by taking an opportunity to read to our youngest library members on a fun-filled afternoon that gave me closer insight into just how valuable our resources are used by an eager younger set.

Congressman Chris Smith showed his appreciation for all the Monmouth County Library offers to residents by nominating the Library for the prestigious Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal. This honor is designed to recognize outstanding libraries and museums that contribute significantly to the well-being of their communities. Nominees exceed expected levels of community outreach and serve as catalysts for positive community change as well as contribute significantly to the well-being of the community, with an accent on programs that offer enhanced services for veterans and military members and their families, as well as marginalized young families and senior citizens.

While looking back on our accomplishments over the years, the Library Commission has been making ambitious technological improvements for the 21st century, and the $1.6 million phase-one renovation of the Headquarters facility will transform the 117,000 square foot library into a state-of-the-art facility. This is the first step in the two-and-a-half-year plan that continues the library’s advances in the technological and electronic enhancements that have made it more popular and user-friendly every year. Phase-one of the overall project includes the completion of the electrical engineering plan for upgrading the infrastructure to accommodate the electronic ability to nearly every point of service. Patrons will be able to access electronic equipment from desks, tables, and chairs within the library while still able to maintain privacy and space for individual use.

I am especially proud of the library employees and the contractors who are able to make this ultra-modern transformation without closing the facility to the more than 20,000 visitors it averages each month. The work entails considerable moving of furniture and resources, installation of underfloor wiring, and new floor coverings before new furniture can be in place. The second phase will include the children’s reading room. The third and final phase will make improvements to staff areas. The more than 300,000 visitors who came to the Headquarters Library during 2018, and the more than 1.2 million who visit any or all of the facilities throughout the year, deserve nothing less, and we as a commission, with a generous and forward thinking Monmouth County Board of Freeholders, are pleased to provide the most modern and up-to-date facility while retaining the charm and comfort of a traditional library.

We are proud of the Monmouth County Library System. If you are a patron, you also have every reason to be proud. If you are not yet a patron, I personally invite you to stop in and review the many offerings in art, culture, recreation, education, history, and entertainment the library offers. Take advantage of our many programs and plan to spend an afternoon or evening at a concert, lecture, or exhibit. Like our thousands of library users, you will find something that you thoroughly enjoy, and we will welcome you, along with the Monmouth County residents who already know our libraries are the best in New Jersey, if not the nation.

Renee B. Swartz, Library Commission Chairperson
With a mission to provide a place to dream, a place to learn, a place to mingle, and a place to realize one’s potential, the Monmouth County Library continues to meet this all-encompassing yet ever changing enterprise with pride, vigor, and an eager response to the requests of our more than 141,000 cardholders.

Headquarters, Eastern Branch, the new Holmdel branch, and each of our other ten branches provide comfortable and accessible facilities and thousands of books, tapes, audios, and programs to enable everyone, from toddler to senior, to dream. The diversity of programs from history to modern technology opens the door to learning, whether for higher education, a new job, or simply a personal challenge to know more. The morning, afternoon, and evening programs of education, music, dance, and song encourage visitors at any of our branches to mingle, meet, and get to know their neighbors in an inviting environment.

The Monmouth County Library has been, and will always be, a place to realize one’s potential. With its Career Information Center and the Career Connections Grant, in partnership with the New Jersey State Library and the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development, extended through May of 2019, the library continues to provide help for the under or unemployed. The Library’s Career Center offers counseling, resources, and speakers. Its capacity as a federal depository offers free access to government information, with attention to making its facilities available to those with special needs, enabling dreamers and doers alike to stretch the limits of their potential and have the opportunity to learn and appreciate.

The autumn festival on the 50th anniversary of the Eastern Branch was a celebration and tribute to the people of Monmouth County who constantly show their appreciation for the resources available to them. Cardholders are forward in making recommendations or suggestions for additions to a Commission eager to retain the importance of history and knowledge while heeding the need to provide its resources with the latest technology and beyond-the-door accessibility.

Monmouth County Library has taken the lead in honoring our military veterans with programs, special events, and book discussions throughout the year. In 2018, it became the first library in the state to raise and display the KIA (Killed in Action) flag to honor those who gave their lives in battle for the nation.

Our Library received recognition of its excellence from organizations and partnerships throughout the year as well. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History selected the Monmouth County Library for its Revisiting the Founding Era Programming Grant, one of only 100 libraries across the nation to be so recognized. The Library was nominated for recognition by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and the Headquarters Library received the “One of the Best” Asbury Park Press Readers’ Choice Award.

The library remains committed to partnering with Fulfill, and collected 3.5 tons of food for Monmouth and Ocean Counties in need.

Even while providing services, programs, and events, the library took the first steps in a multi-year renovation at Headquarters ensuring a 21st century infrastructure for users’ electronic devices in comfortable settings.

Monmouth County Library users demand excellent services, as they should and as they deserve. We are committed to continuing to be the investment in which they take such pride.

Judith G. Tolchin, Director, Monmouth County Library
HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY

Eastern Branch, Shrewsbury commemorated its Golden Anniversary with a month-long celebration of programs and activities in October. First opened in 1968, the Eastern Branch Library continues to enhance its reputation as the heart of the community.

“Eastern Branch has been a leader throughout its long and impressive history in being a part of the community and sharing not only knowledge and a sense of history, but also a haven for all interests,” stated Freeholder Lillian Burry, Liaison from the Board to the Library Commission.

A celebration highlight, which was attended by Congressman Chris Smith and local civic leaders, was the naming of the Children’s Room. The Renee Becker Swartz Children’s Library was dedicated in recognition of the Library Commission Chair for her lifetime commitment and service to the library. A commission member for over 50 years, Swartz stated, “Reading is the key to going anywhere you want and doing everything you want to do. Books can take you anywhere; they can create an environment all their own. They act as a springboard for change, encouragement, discussion, entertainment, education. There is no end to what is accomplished through books.”

A talk on jazz by Jack Livingstone, celebration of children's programs, and a concert by The Intentions completed the festivities.
Programming Review

Library programs provide many facets of engagement and illuminate experiences and values that enhance the community. From practical information designed to improve quality of life to educational, entertaining events in arts and humanities, programming is an integral aspect of Monmouth County Library’s value to its constituents. Music, health and well-being, history, business, technology, employment, timely topics, the arts, and other areas can be explored through library programs which are designed to educate, entertain, and expand horizons of patrons, all offered free of charge to participants.

Music

2018 commemorated 45 years of Jazz with former director and now volunteer Jack Livingstone at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, Manalapan. Concerts included the Virginia Mayhew Sextet, Rio Clemente and Friends, Mark Sherman’s Quartet, Giacomo Gates and Trio, Art Baron and Friends, Brazilian Jazz by Abellita Mateus and Friends, Carol Fredette Trio, S.O.L.E. Concert: Spirit of Life Ensemble, Warren Chiasson Trio, and The Alan Broadbent Trio featuring Harvie S.

Music devotees enjoyed 22 concerts in a variety of genres, from jazz and rock to classical and more. The Intentions, Chicago 9 Tribute Band, Imperial Brass and Earth Wonder Fire, and The Belle Tones all performed. Bob Berger & Friends encored with a much acclaimed tribute to Tom Petty. Fred Miller shared lecture-in-song, featuring rock and pop from the 50s and 60s. The Centennial of Leonard Bernstein was celebrated with a performance by Chris Pinnella. Tim McLoone & The Shirleys regaled with the music of Linda Ronstadt and The Eagles, as well as a much anticipated holiday concert. The ManalaPans Steel Drum Ensemble from the Manalapan-Englishtown Regional School District offered a memorable multi-generational event.

Library branches made music accessible county-wide with concerts by Phil Bruschi, the Festive Flutes, McDermott’s Handy, Charlie’s Band, the Annie Breen Ensemble, and others. Music of The Beatles, Irish heritage, folk songs, and more were featured.

History

Black History was honored with an afternoon of history through music, made possible by a partnership with Manalapan Arts Council. Nisha Pradeep presented Bharatanatyam and History and Evolution of Dance and Drama. Featured speaker Rick Geffken preceded the 63rd Army Band Brass Quintet, and the Library had a visit from President Grant on his birthday.

Four Revolutionary War in Monmouth programs were presented by Dr. David Martin, six programs on World War II were offered in conjunction with the World War II Era Studies Institute, and six World War I Centennial Commemoration programs were shared. A lecture on the Harlem’s Rattlers was given by Dr. Jeffrey Sammon.

“It’s a great place to relax and read and the library offers many programs that are varied and of interest to most.” -PATRICIA
Other Performances and Programs

Raconteur Radio presented the staged radio play, *Frankenstein*, which the Library commissioned in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley’s book. Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey presented a performance of *The Shrewd Mechanicals*.

June is Horse Month in New Jersey, and several branches hosted a variety of horse meet-and-greets. A very successful presentation was given on raising backyard chickens. Yoga, chair yoga, meditation, Tai Chi Chih, and other wellness opportunities were offered.

Other events, including author visits, a Volunteer Recruitment Fair, get-organized seminars, First Friday for Seniors programming, employment-related workshops, an antique appraisal event, timely health topics, and more rounded out the program offerings at the Monmouth County Library.
Monmouth County teens enjoy year-round access to a myriad of programs designed for those in grades six and up. Successful technology-driven workshops presented in multi-session events evolved from a Girls Who Code affiliation. This national organization partnered with the Monmouth County Library in two locations. Under the auspices of a Rutgers University facilitator, the Headquarters group worked in teams to learn the basics of coding. At the Holmdel Branch, speakers from iCIMS concentrated on Scratch coding. Other tech programs included a two-part series on the basics of virtual reality, featuring hands-on film editing. Rogue Robotics, a high school student group, presented an underwater robotics demonstration. A unique combination of music and technology came together with Musician Chipocrite who shared music played through a Nintendo Game Boy.

Practical, hands-on life skills were mastered through a teen CPR/AED certification program which also covered EpiPen® use. Teens assembled scientific Fold-scopes, aka paper microscopes. A popular Anime Film Festival included movies, Japanese refreshments, crafts, and games. Teens participated at NJ Makers Day, a statewide initiative now in its fifth year.

Inter-generational programs enjoyed by teens throughout the Monmouth County Library system included a career choice workshop, Halloween Costume Swap, coat donation drive, which amassed over 100 coats for local homeless shelters, a concert by ManalaPans Steel Drum Ensemble as well as a popular Gilder Lehrman history program featuring excerpts from correspondence between Abigail and John Adams.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) continued to meet at Headquarters, providing opportunities for volunteering within the library as well as assisting with community outreach with drives for school supplies and holiday gifts for local Foster and Adoptive Children.

Teens continue to represent a vital and valued segment of the library community. They are primed to mature into adults, poised to make meaningful contributions to society as a result of their experiences at the Monmouth County Library.
Youth Services

Youth services are the cornerstone of the Monmouth County Library System. Children’s staff were successful with keeping this youngest patron base vibrant, engaged, and growing by providing exciting programs, maintaining various and appealing collections, and promoting its services through print and digital media. Creative, challenging, and curiosity-raising activities were offered at 13 branch and 13 member libraries.

Programs and special events for children and their families educated and entertained thousands of youngsters across Monmouth County. A significant 4% increase in program attendance was attributed to the popularity of the library’s foundation programs: preschool storytimes and afterschool activities.

Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers love the routine of weekly storytime. These programs encourage pre-literacy skills and social interaction in a group setting, while introducing parents and caregivers to a variety of children’s literature. Preschool program attendance increased significantly by 10% this year.

School-age children enjoyed new and exciting experiences. Author meet-and-greets, reading to therapy dogs, coloring and painting activities, cupcake decorating, Earth Day and environmental events, bilingual explorations, magic shows, holiday celebrations, and crafts galore were provided.

STEM learning - science, technology, engineering, and math - was strongly represented in numerous programs, including marshmallow and gumdrop architecture, kinetic sand art, LEGO® build and play, fizzing slime, Jell-O volcanoes, and other science and art experiences. Tech-oriented explorations included Scratch coding workshops for tweens, Bricks 4 Kidz motorized LEGO® projects, and littleBits magnetized electronic construction. School-age attendance had a dramatic increase of 31% in 2018.

System-wide NJ Makers Day events in March reflected a unified dedication to the theme which was highlighted at Headquarters with NJ Makers Day 2018. The afternoon was enjoyed by 1,200 attendees from ages 3 to 103, and provided memorable multi-generational experiences of 42 displays and maker booths. Participation in this statewide initiative represented community, school, and county agencies, as well as private individuals, all delighted to share their knowledge. Teen volunteers assisted presenters and the public during this exciting and much anticipated event.

Children of every age continue to comprise an important demographic of the Monmouth County Library System constituency. It is a great pleasure to provide library services to this dynamic, growing patron-base and to contribute to goals of lifelong learning and literacy.

“I brought my young son for crafts and a movie when he was growing up. The children’s section is so much fun! He grew up to be an avid reader.”

-LIBRARY PATRON
With a collection exceeding **1.5 MILLION ITEMS**, and over **91,000 ELECTRONIC TITLES**, Monmouth County Library continues to provide one of the largest collections statewide to its patrons.

Electronic media, including ebooks, downloadable audio books, electronic magazines, and streaming video, accessible 24/7 from the library’s website, comprised nearly ten percent of Monmouth County Library’s circulation.

Over **125,000 USES** of public Internet were logged on 87 computers with Internet access for public use at the Monmouth County Library.

Attendance at Monmouth County Library branch sponsored programs **EXCEEDED 133,000** in 2018. Events included concerts, book discussions, and history lectures for adults as well as innovative teen and children’s programming.

Monmouth County Library hosted **OVER 1,400** community programs with more than **12,000 ATTENDEES**.

Collectively, Monmouth County Library branches provided over **34,000 hours of public service in 2018**.

Over **3.5 MILLION** items were circulated this year, including traditional and electronic formats.

In 2018, Monmouth County Library’s 13 branch locations welcomed over **1.2 MILLION VISITORS**.

Over **125,000 items were circulated this year, including traditional and electronic formats.**

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A 62.5% increase in followers @MonCoLibrary

“No Shushing. Visit your library this weekend during Library Month.” This pro-library quote by Paula Poundstone was the library’s largest Feed Posting with over 67,000 views.

A 41% increase in followers @MonCoLibrary

“Batgirl, the Librarian” was the library’s most popular post, on “Batman Day,” September 16, with 1373 impressions and 112 likes.

Now on Twitter!
With 1,200 followers, primarily sharing IG and FB tweets.

Summer Reading
Libraries Rock! Summer Reading Clubs were supported with a new online format. Beanstack, an innovative program with a mobile app for both Apple and Android phones facilitated ease of logging results. Member as well as branch libraries participated, with over 2,300 readers including Read-to-Me, independents, Teen, and Adults logging more than 66,000 books.

TOP READS 2018

Adult Fiction
1. The Great Alone
   by Kristen Hannah
2. The Woman in the Window
   by A.J. Finn
3. Little Fires Everywhere
   by Celeste Ng

Adult Non-Fiction
1. Educated: A Memoir
   by Tara Westover
2. Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and a Culture in Crisis
   by J.D. Vance
3. Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI
   by David Grann

YA Fiction
1. The Maze Runner
   by Kristen Hannah
2. One of Us is Lying
   by Karen McManus
3. Stargirl
   by Jerry Spinelli

YA Non-Fiction
1. I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives
   by Caitlin Alifirenka
2. Parallel Journeys
   by Eleanor Ayer
3. We Have No Idea: A Guide to the Unknown Universe
   by Jeorge Cham

Children’s Fiction
1. Wonder
   by R.P. Palacio
2. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone
   by J.K. Rowling
3. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway
   by Jeff Kinney

DVDs
1. The Greatest Showman
2. Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle
3. Wonder

Over 31,000 foreign language books circulated in 18 languages. Chinese books were the most popular with over 23,000 checkouts! Other languages included French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Yiddish.

1,936 Movies were streamed in 2018.
**Library Financials**

### 2018 Library Budget

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Monmouth County Member Libraries

Member Libraries expand the Library’s mission to support patrons in the development of lifelong interests and pursuits of knowledge through reading and learning. They enrich communities at the local level with educational, recreational, and cultural experiences. By providing the materials to encourage patrons to freely explore their curiosities, Member Libraries provide access to resources to realize one’s potential.

Member Spotlight

The Brielle Public Library celebrated its new Teen Room with Liz Kessler, *Emily Windsnap* Series author. The Author Talk was followed by a “tween” mermaid cookie craft.

The Eatontown Borough Library had new countertops installed in the adult and children’s sections. End caps in children’s were painted in a color palette of red, yellow, blue, and green. End caps in the adult area were refreshed with contrasting light and dark blues, painted in soothing swirl patterns.

An exciting upgrade at the Little Silver Library was the purchase of new tables and chairs provided for the Children’s room through the generosity of the Friends of Little Silver Library.

Rumson’s Oceanic Free Library’s Juvenile Collection is now more user friendly due to a “leveling” project of 2,800 books. Spines are now labeled to include Fountas and Pinnell’s Text Level Gradient™ and/or Lexile® measure. This mirrors the two local public school districts’ (grades K-8 and 9-12) cataloging technique and will assist young patrons with choosing reading materials according to personal reading and comprehension skills.

Member Libraries

Brielle, Eatontown, Fair Haven, Interlaken, Keansburg, Little Silver, Manasquan, Monmouth Beach, Neptune City, Oceanic (Rumson), Sea Bright, Sea Girt, Tinton Falls, and Union Beach

Member Municipalities

Allenhurst, Deal, Englishtown, Farmingdale, Freehold Township, Highlands, Lake Como, Loch Arbour, Millstone, Roosevelt, Shrewsbury Township, Spring Lake Heights, and Upper Freehold Township
Monmouth County Library Headquarters
125 Symmes Drive
Manalapan, NJ 07726-3249
732-431-7220; TTY Hearing Impaired 732-845-0064
www.monmouthcountylelib.org

Eastern Branch
1001 Route 35
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702-4398
732-683-8980; TTY Hearing Impaired 732-933-1285

Allentown Branch
16 S. Main Street
Allentown, NJ 08501-1610
609-259-7565

Atlantic Highlands Branch
100 1st Avenue
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716-2914
732-291-1956

Colts Neck Branch
1 Winthrop Drive
Colts Neck, NJ 07722-2225
732-431-5656

Hazlet Township Branch
251 Middle Road
Hazlet, NJ 07730-1942
732-264-7164

Holmdel Branch
101 Crawfords Corner Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733-1908
732-946-4118

Howell Branch
318 Old Tavern Road
Howell, NJ 07731-8812
732-938-2300

Marlboro Branch
1 Library Court
Marlboro, NJ 07746-1184
732-536-9406

Ocean Township Branch
701 Deal Road
Ocean, NJ 07712-3507
732-531-5092

Oceanport Branch
8 Iroquois Avenue
Oceanport, NJ 07757-1530
732-229-2626

Wall Township Branch
2700 Allaire Road
Wall, NJ 07719-9570
732-449-8877

West Long Branch Library
95 Poplar Avenue
West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1653
732-222-5993

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