Table of Contents
You can click on each link below to quickly navigate to your favorite bulletin sections!

- From the Director
- Member Library News
- Scam Alert
- Webinars, Workshops & Events
- Highlights from the Collection
- Polaris FAQ
- Awards and Grants

Reminders
Calling all Library Supporters! Please join us on Wednesday, February 27 in Albany. Due to the projected budget cuts libraries are facing, your presence in Albany is now more important than ever! Please register at www.flis.org/calendar-2 to join us. Transportation, meeting schedules, snacks, and water will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi at kdownham@flis.org or 607-273-4074 ext. 228.

Links to Make You Think
35 Hysterical Times Librarians Had People Laughing Way Too Hard In The Library

Museum and Library Services Act Passes

Novelist Best Book Display Tips

The State of Net Neutrality

Why Libraries Will Save the World (If We Let Them)

One easy New Year's resolution to help save democracy in 2019: Go to the library

Americans Are Happier in States That Spend More on Libraries, Parks and Highways
Welcome to the 2019 edition of our newsletter! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing holiday season and start to their new year. The following updates are items we have been working on over the past few weeks:

**Advocacy Day** – Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 27 for Advocacy Day in Albany. We will have two ways to travel to Albany – a bus leaving from Wegmans in Ithaca with stops in Dryden and Cortland, and a van with stops in Cayuga County. Please register with Kristi Downham to attend this year. There are lots of big budget asks this year, and we need support to help them pass. FLLS staff will be passing along NYLA advocacy emails for staff and trustees to fill out between now and February 27.

**NYLA Legislative Priorities** – The Governor is expected to unveil his tentative budget in late January or early February. This year, NYLA is undertaking a larger than normal legislative ask and will be asking for $200 million for statewide Library Aid. $75 million for Library Construction Aid is also a large increase, but is vital for our aging library buildings. $40 million is being sought for library-based complete count initiatives for the Libraries Count: Census 2020 project. The 2020 Census will be conducted primarily online for the first time, potentially threatening an undercount. A census undercount threatens our State budget and also federal representation. We feel that libraries and library advocates across New York will serve a critical role as primary points of service for patrons who need help completing the online census.

**NY State Annual Reports** – The State Library expects the Annual Report software to be available for public libraries by the middle of January, which should be sometime next week. There are a few additions to the Annual Report, including questions on if a library has social media and if a library has a makerspace area. FLLS staff met this week to review the Annual Report and to start compiling statistics for our member libraries to use. Kristi and Jenny will be providing Annual Report training and we are always willing to work with anyone needing one on one help.

**Minimum Standards Document** – The State Library and PULISDO announced in early January that there is a new, 2019 edition of *Helpful Information for Meeting Minimum Public Library Standards in New York State*. This guide is helpful for both directors and trustees to understand the why, what and how of each standard. As a reminder, the new, updated public library minimum standards will start on January 1, 2021. The document is available on the State Library’s website at: [www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/helpful/index.html](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/helpful/index.html).

Have a great weekend!
Sarah
From the *Finger Lakes Times*:

**Overdue books won't see fines in Seneca County libraries**

WATERLOO — With the goal of increasing traffic, all five public libraries in Seneca County have agreed to waive fines for overdue books and other materials.

Libraries in Waterloo, Seneca Falls, Ovid, Interlaken and Lodi will no longer charge late fees for items that are considered late in being returned... **KEEP READING**

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*Have something to share?*

Please send submissions to Jenny by 9am on January 25 to be featured in the Bulletin!
Scam Alert!

Netflix phishing scam: Don’t take the bait

Phishing is when someone uses fake emails or texts to get you to share valuable personal information – like account numbers, Social Security numbers, or your login IDs and passwords. Scammers use your information to steal your money, your identity, or both. They also use phishing emails to get access to your computer or network. If you click on a link, they can install ransomware or other programs that can lock you out of your data.

Scammers often use familiar company names or pretend to be someone you know. Here’s a real world example featuring Netflix. Police in Ohio shared a screenshot of a phishing email designed to steal personal information. The email claims the user’s account is on hold because Netflix is “having some trouble with your current billing information” and invites the user to click on a link to update their payment method.

Before you click on a link or share any of your sensitive information:

- **Check it out.** If you have concerns about the email, contact the company directly. But look up their phone number or website yourself. That way, you’ll know you’re getting the real company and not about to call a scammer or follow a link that will download malware.

- **Take a closer look.** While some phishing emails look completely legit, bad grammar and spelling can tip you off to phishing. Other clues: Your name is missing, or you don’t even have an account with the company. In the Netflix example, the scammer used the British spelling of “Center” (Centre) and used the greeting, “Hi Dear.” Listing only an international phone number for a U.S.-based company is also suspicious.

Report phishing emails. Forward them to spam@uce.gov (an address used by the FTC) and to reportphishing@apwg.org (an address used by the Anti-Phishing Working Group, which includes ISPs, security vendors, financial institutions, and law enforcement agencies). You can also report phishing to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint. Also, let the company or person that was impersonated know about the phishing scheme. For Netflix, forward the message to phishing@netflix.com.

December 26, 2018
by Colleen Tressler
Consumer Education Specialist, FTC
Webinars, Workshops, & Events

**FLLS Events**

Sign up here for all FLLS Workshops unless otherwise noted: [www.flls.org/calendar-2/](http://www.flls.org/calendar-2/)

**FALCONS Meeting**

*Thursday, February 21, 2019*

*9:30am-11:30am*

Rob Scott, Senior Sales Representative at Ingram, will be on hand after the meeting (~11:45 AM) to discuss Ingram’s services. Lunch will be provided.

**Advocacy Day**

*Wednesday, February 27, 2019*

*6:00am-6:00pm*

*Calling all Library Supporters!* Please join us in Albany! Due to the projected budget cuts libraries are facing, your presence in Albany is now more important than ever! Registration is required. Transportation, meeting schedules, snacks, and water will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi at kdownham@flls.org or 607-273-4074 ext. 228.

**Conferences & Outside Trainings**

**Data, Data Everywhere: Why Tech Giants Collect Your Data and How to Stop Them**

*January 29, 9:30am-3:30pm*

Pioneer Library System in Canandaigua, NY

Davis Erin Anderson from Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) will provide a gentle introduction to how the internet works so that we can identify how and why our information is collected, with and without our knowledge. We’ll take a tour of the online information flow, discuss the ways in which our information is used, and describe how even our smallest actions -- like which posts we stop to read and which links we click -- amount to data so valuable that internet companies will do almost anything to keep our attention.

We’ll describe the ways in which we can reduce the impact of all of this exposure. And since this goes beyond us as individuals, we will discuss the ways in which our patrons are exposed to these same issues. We’ll develop creative solutions for what we can do to help.

*Lunch will be provided*

Back to Top
Highlights from the Collection

Playaway Bookpacks

Each Bookpack comes with 1 Playaway audio device and 1 print book, creating a fun and educational read-along experience to children of all ages. Bookpacks are the easiest way for emerging and struggling readers, auditory and special education learners, and ESL patrons to develop literacy skills.

Search Polaris by Call Number for J Bookpack to see a complete list of titles!

Collection Reminders!

- Please DO send us suggestions for items to purchase, including professional development books and kits.
- Please DO NOT alter FLLS collection items, i.e. adding stickers or removing labels.
- Please DO NOT attempt to fix items. If an issue does arise, please send the item back with a detailed note or email.
- Please DO NOT send back collections without first contacting Malia.
- Please DO check all FLLS collection items in when you receive them in the delivery. This helps us to know that items have arrived at your library safely.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Malia: malia@flls.org.
Collecting Fines & Fees for Other Libraries

While there is no official system-wide policy or procedure for sending collected fines & fees to other libraries, there is a report to facilitate the process. Reminder: Fines are determined by the transacting library (where the item is checked Out), not who owns the item or where it was returned.

Rex created the Polaris>Custom>Public Services>Patron Financial>AA-Collected Fees Detail & AA-Collected Fees Summary reports to assist member libraries in sending accumulated collected fines to each other.

Don’t forget! You can also access Polaris Reports online anytime by visiting http://catalog.flls.org/reports. A window will pop up requiring authentication. Log in with the user name and password for a Polaris workstation. Remember to include the FLLS domain, i.e. grocirc@flls.org.

Don’t forget about the Polaris Documentation online! Visit www.flls.org and click on Staff Login. Contact Jenny, Eric, or Rex for the login information.
Documentary Heritage Program Grants
Deadline: January 15, 2019
The Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) is a statewide program established by law to provide financial support and guidance to not-for-profit organizations that hold, collect and make available New York's historical records. Funding is available to support projects that relate to groups and topics traditionally under-represented in New York’s historical record. The New York State Education Department's (NYSED) 2019-2020 appropriation for DHP up to $92,000 for DHP Grants. DHP Grant Project Types are Documentation and Arrangement & Description. DHP is administered by the New York State Archives, a unit of the New York State Education Department.

NYLA RASS Mini-Grant Program
Deadline: January 19, 2019
Guidelines: Each application may request between $50-$200 and money is to be used for an innovative program engaging adults. The application takes about 7 minutes to complete, successful applicants will be notified late February 2019. You must mail us a photo & flyer from the event by August 31, 2019. RASS plans to offer these grants 1 or 2 times per year. Questions? Email RASSMiniGrants@gmail.com.

Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries
Deadline: February 25, 2019
Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries (APP) is a special initiative of the National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program. The goal of this initiative is to support projects that strengthen the ability of small and rural libraries and archives to serve their communities. IMLS invites applications that focus on the following topics: transforming school library practice, community memory, and digital inclusion.

NOW OPEN! Community Foundation of Tompkins County Library Grant Cycle
Deadline: January 31, 2019
This grant cycle was inspired by the Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund which seeks to promote genuine intellectual curiosity and a lifelong love of reading and learning, by promoting greater and easier access by youth to local libraries. Eligible applicants are the 33 public libraries in Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga and Tompkins counties, the 5 counties of the Finger Lakes Library System. Library Grant Cycle applications and reports must be received through CommunityForce, an online grant management platform. Grant Range: $200-$16,000.

Outreach Mini-Grants
Deadline: March 22, 2019
Member libraries in our service area can apply for an Outreach Mini-Grant. All applications are due March 22, 2019. Visit www.flls.org/outreach/#minigrants to download an application or to view the FAQs. Have a question? Stuck on an idea? Read our FAQs or email Jenny Shonk at jshonk@flls.org.

Visit www.flls.org/grants for more grant resources.