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Reminders
There is still time to sign up for the Summer Planning Meeting on Thursday, March 14 at 9am. Visit www.flls.org/calendar-2/ to register!

Outreach-Mini Grants applications on due on March 22. Don’t forget that Jenny will proofread your application before you submit it! Email jshonk@flls.org or call 607-319-5613 with questions!

Links to Make You Think
A 30-million page library is heading to the moon to help preserve human civilization

- The Luck of the Reader: March Bookish Bingo
- How to Kondo Your Bookshelf
- 100 Words Turning 100 This Year
- How Ask for Prize Donations

Female Librarians on Horseback Delivering Books, ca. 1930s

Did you miss an issue? Check www.flls.org/bulletin for archived Weekly Bulletins
From The Director

Thank you to all the trustees, directors, staff and patrons who attended Advocacy Day in Albany on February 27! This year was challenging in many ways – from weather cutting our visits short to the realization that this is going to be a difficult funding year – but I’m hopeful that we will at least get our library aid restored.

I attended meetings on pre-Advocacy Day in Albany, including a PULISDO meeting and a NYALS meeting. For our PULISDO meeting, the public library system directors met for two hours to discuss the Census 2020 initiatives systems that are starting, planning for our PULISDO directors retreat in July (which will be held in Ithaca and hosted by FLLS this year), and how systems are handling the sexual harassment prevention trainings for their member libraries. We also had an update from State Library staff about the search for a new State Librarian, Annual Report updates, and information about construction aid for our member libraries. The NYALS (New York Alliance for Library Systems) brought public library system, school library system, and regional library council directors together to talk about a memo of understanding between the systems and NYLA and the dues structure of NYLA. We also received Advocacy Day updates from NYLA staff and talking point tips for our legislative meetings on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, library advocates from around the state gathered in Albany to hold legislative meetings. The constant phrase FLLS staff heard was while our legislators support libraries, they feel this year is a difficult budget year. With the exception of one of our legislators (Barbara Lifton), our legislators are Republican and are now in the minority. Assemblyman Christopher Friend started our meetings, and he was not hopeful for an increase in library aid, but thought a restoration to last year’s funding might be possible. He was not hopeful for increases in construction aid, and while he was very interested in the 2020 Census, he felt that no money would be given for library efforts. Friend’s sentiments were echoed in our following meetings with our other legislators throughout the day.

We will know more how the budget is shaping up next week, so look for updates from FLLS and NYLA. We learned that letters to the editor, especially mentioning the Governor, are still viewed as the most effective way to reach Cuomo. It’s not too late to call your legislators, participate in email advocacy efforts from NYLA, or make in person visits to your legislators.

Have a fantastic weekend and see you for our Summer Reading Planning meeting next Thursday, March 14, 9am to noon!

Sarah
Today is Library Advocacy Day in Albany, and I had the pleasure of sitting down with members of the @FingerLakesLibs. Thank you for all that you do and for the vital services that you provide our community.

@NYLA_1890 #NYLALAD2019
Scam Alert!

Robocall Scams Surge to 85 Billion Globally

Robocall spam has surged to 85 billion calls globally with bank account, credit card and extortion being common scams, according to Hiya, a company that makes apps to fend off unwanted calls.

According to Hiya's first Global Robocall Radar Report, global spam calls grew 325 percent from a year ago to 85 billion. Hiya's estimate is based on an analysis of 12 billion calls per month globally.

UK, Spain, Italy, France and Argentina were the countries with the most robocalls. Like spam, robocalls have proliferated because scammers get just enough victims to rake in profits. The Federal Communications Commission and Federal Trade Commission have been looking at ways to curb robocalls, which are one of the top consumer complaints in the U.S.

The most common scams include the following:

- Bank account scams where callers pretend to be an official from a financial institution and request information to get access to accounts.
- Extortion and kidnapping. Callers call random numbers and request payment to return a kidnapped friend or family member.
- Credit card scams where callers pose as a bank official and phish for card details.
- Wangiri Scam, also known as "One Ring," is a move where there are calls to entice a victim to call back international numbers. Victims are then charged premium rates for the call.

Neighbor scam, which refers to the use of voice over IP to mimic local numbers and trick victims to answer.

Those scams vary by country. For instance, there's a solar energy robocall scam in Italy where fake utilities ask for information. Scammers enroll victims for services that don't exist.


Let's stay safe out there!

Think Before You Click!
Webinars, Workshops, & Events

FLLS Events

Sign up here for all FLLS Workshops unless otherwise noted: www.flls.org/calendar-2/

Summer Planning Meeting
Thursday, March 14
9:00am-12:00pm

Polaris Item Maintenance Refresher
Wednesday, March 27
9:00am-12:00pm

Marketing Your Library with Infographics & More
Wednesday, April 3
9:00am-12:00pm

Inspiring Sensory Play
Thursday, May 2
10:00am-12:00pm

FEATURED!
Ithaca College Events

ITHACON
Saturday March 23, & Sunday, March 24
FREE! A classic comic book convention for the whole family There will be a Graphic Novel reading room at the event, a wonderful opportunity to preview some great kids’ graphic novels. Among our guests are Tamora Pierce, the amazing YA Fantasy author, and also Louise Simonson who is a pioneer in children's graphic novels—she was the creator of "Power Pack" which was the first all-kid superhero title, and also the first US comic to be completely written and illustrated by women.

As always, ITHACON will feature free drawing and writing workshops for kids and teens, as well as cosplay, crafting, and games.

Materials and Programs for All: Workshops on Enhancing Inclusion
Friday, April 26
(free of charge, breakfast and lunch provided)
Ithaca College is proud to host a series of workshops designed to help librarians and educators better serve patrons of different identities and needs. Our hour-long workshops provide a local alternative to expensive Continuing Education training, and seek to foster community among regional teachers and library staff.

Among the topics covered will be:
- Choosing Graphic Novels
- LGBT-positive and racially diverse materials
- Luring teens into libraries (and what to do with them once you’ve got them)
- Setting up and using a Maker Space
- Supporting transgender staff and patrons
- Choosing educational computer games for all ages

These workshops will be taught by professional librarians who work in a variety of settings, and by Ithaca College professors, students and staff. A certificate of completion will be made available at the end of the program. There is no charge for these workshops, and educators & library staff at all levels (students, clerks, aides, programming directors, classroom teachers) are welcome to attend. Space is limited and we will be accepting participants on a first-come/first-served basis.

Conferences & Outside Trainings

Urban Librarians Conference: Libraries as Place
Friday, April 12, 9am-5pm
Brooklyn Public Library in Brooklyn, NY
Whether your library is a grand historic edifice or a fast popup in a strip mall it is, at its essence a physical place. Reading, community building, sharing and existing, all of it, derives from the space itself. Librarians in urban centers across the country are reimagining their space as not a warehouse, but the beating heart of the community. This year’s Urban Librarians Conference will focus on how we use that space. How do front line staff make space for their communities and what does “making space for their communities” even mean? How do you work in a community in a crappy building designed to be last century’s cutting edge library and keep that edge for your community now? How do you use your space to bring people together and connect them not only to the information and resources they need but also to each other?

ALA Annual
June 2019
Washington, DC
Registration and Housing will open Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Check out: Making Your Case to Attend.
Highlights from the Collection

Did you know?
March is Women’s History Month and FLLS has a kit for that!

Order the Celebrate Strong Women kit today! Search the catalog for “Celebrate Strong Women” or by barcode A20519406680.

Celebrate Strong Women

Titles Include:
Coco Chanel: The Legend and the Life by Justine Picardie
Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope by Gabrielle Giffords & Mark Kelly
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? by Mindy Kaling
It Was Me All Along by Andie Mitchell
Just Kids by Patti Smith
Kabul Beauty School by Deborah Rodriguez
My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor
My Life in France by Julia Child
Nothing Daunted by Dorothy Wickenden
Soldier Girls by Helen Thorpe
The Cooked Seed by Anchee Min
The Good Girls Revolt by Lynn Povich
Wishful Drinking by Carrie Fisher
Polaris FAQ

Updating Expired Holds

The expiration date for all holds is currently 120 days, with AUB & TCPL being the only exceptions at 180 days (if you would like to change your library “Default expiration period, let Rex know). After that period of time, the hold is no longer active and the patron will not get their item. For the most part holds will be filled before expiring, but there are extenuating circumstances. For example, an item could be put into repair for a period of time or the wait list could be very long for popular items.

It is very simple to check for expiring holds.
1. Open the Request Manager.
2. Change the Status to Expired.
3. Check through the list to see if any expired holds can be reactivated. Click on an item in the list and then click Reactivate.
   - If the item is missing or has been removed, you will not be able to reactivate the hold. If a message pops up saying that something is prohibited, the item is probably missing or deleted. You could contact the patrons directly to let them know that they cannot place a hold on this item.
   - If you are able to successfully reactivate the item, they will go back into the Hold Queue in the order in which they placed their hold.

To view the status of a specific item while in the Request Manager: right click on an item, move your mouse to Links and then Bibliographic Record. The bibliographic record will display. To view associated items, click on Links at the top of the window and then click on Item Records. Either a specific item record or a list of item records will display and you can determine why the hold is not able to be reactivated.
Awards, Contests, & Grants

ALMOST DUE! 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.

NEW! FLLS Scholarship to Attend ARSL!
Deadline: March 22, 2019
The Finger Lakes Library System is pleased to offer a scholarship opportunity for one of our library directors/managers to attend the 2019 Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference. This conference will be held in Burlington, Vermont from September 4-7th. FLLS will be offering a scholarship designed to cover the cost of ARLS membership, registration fees, hotel fees, and transportation costs. Visit https://arsl.info/ to learn more about ARSL!

Nora and Jenny will be attending the conference and we would love it if a library director/manager from our system would consider attending. Not only are there conference sessions that are helpful especially to our smaller libraries, but it is a great chance for networking and to see what other libraries across the nation are doing. Library directors/managers who are interested in applying for the scholarship should complete the attached application no later than Friday, March 22nd. Please don’t hesitate to contact Sarah with questions. Registration opens in April and last year filled up in just over one week. You can return your applications to Sarah by email or in the delivery.

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