



MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Announcements & Reminders

FLLS Staff Out-of-Office: Tom 12/28-12/30 (Ken will drive). Deb 12/21-12/23. Kristi, Rex, Nora, & Jenny 12/21-12/23 & 12/28-12/30. FLLS will be closed 12/24-12/25 & 12/31-1/1. Email is still the best way to contact us!

Whenever your service model changes, please fill out the streamlined online reopening form: <http://www.flls.org/2020reopenpoll/>. If you are closing your library due to a COVID-19 exposure, please also email sglogowski@flls.org.

Links to Make You Think

[NYLA Annual Conference 2021 – Call for Proposals](#)

[Programming Librarian Calendar of Events & Celebrations](#)



[New REALM project resources available](#)

[Why Some Libraries Are Ending Fines](#)

[WNYLRC Ask the Lawyer: Recently Asked Questions](#)

[A Little Free Library Walking Tour of My Neighborhood](#)

From The Director



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your tremendous work during this difficult past year.

As I reflect back on this time last year, we were just about to hear news reports about the pandemic in China. Within a few short months, it was spreading across our nation and impacting all aspects of our lives. This fall I looked back on emails I was writing to our directors and trustees during the second and third week of March and they seem so naïve to me now. The emails were suggesting that we were estimating library closures would only last a few short weeks.

By March 20, all libraries in New York State were ordered closed by an Executive Order of our Governor. But library services didn't stop; instead our libraries evolved and offered more online services such as virtual programming, the ability to get a library card online, and more. Boards moved to meeting through Zoom and other electronic ways. Our OverDrive usage skyrocketed and our libraries began meeting regularly as a group to share new ideas and service models. While the importance of a physical library space was quickly less important, library services remained as vital as ever.

When libraries were given the greenlight to open in late spring/early summer, our libraries quickly discovered how to create and set up curbside or contactless pickup services that are still being used today. Our libraries are continuing innovative virtual programming and creating items such as specialized book bundles, recommended reading lists, and fantastic grab-and-go kits for kids. While our libraries may have to occasionally scale back services to curbside or close for a few weeks, all of our libraries are committed to providing stellar library services to our communities.

I want to share my appreciation of all of the hard work the Finger Lakes Library System staff has provided this past year. We may not have been in the building, but our staff was working harder than ever to provide assistance to our libraries during these changing times. Our drivers and pages came up with new delivery schedules when we had to reduce our staff and they remain committed to making sure our libraries get as many deliveries as possible. Our librarians were hosting information sessions, member library meetups, and sharing ideas to help our libraries with programming and beyond. Our computer network services staff are constantly working behind the scenes to update the catalog when one of our libraries has to roll back services or close.

I would also like to thank our member library directors and all our trustees for making quick and difficult decisions we've never had to make before, such as closing our libraries, moving to virtual programming, and starting curbside services. Everyone has worked so hard over the past year in this changing landscape and our system remains committed to helping all of you.

I wish everyone a joyous and safe holiday season. I am looking forward to seeing what 2021 brings all of our libraries and I want you to know that we look forward to helping you next year and beyond.

I will be in the office over the next few weeks if any of our libraries need assistance while the majority of our staff take much-needed time off.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year,
Sarah



Member Library News

Coburn Free Library

The weather reports were true! The southern part of our system received over 40 inches on snow as of Thursday morning!

Pictured is Meredith Gallaro, director of Coburn Free Library in Owego, trying to find her driveway in Endicott, NY!

Stay safe and warm out there, folks!



Seneca Falls Library

Read with Miss Martha!

Begins Jan. 19th! **WOOF!**

of the Seneca Falls Library

Are you craving some cuddle time with your favorite furry friend? Register for a 20min time-slot to share stories with Miss Martha in the library!

Tuesdays @ 4-5pm

MUST register ahead:
tmontoney@senecafallslibrary.org
No walk-ins please.

Seneca Falls Library

What a treat! Miss Martha is coming back to the Seneca Falls Library in January! Patrons can register for a 20 minute time slot to cuddle and read to the amazing Miss Martha.

Check out their Facebook page for other fun programming ideas including:

- Chilly Cook-A-Book Club*
- Zoom Crafternoon*
- DIY Pet Care for the Family*
- The Junior Bookbug Club*
- Virtual Literary Legos*
- Stuffies & Stories*
- & Paper Quilling!*



Scam Alert!

They're Here!

The COVID-19 Vaccine Phishes Finally Arrive

We expected that massive media attention surrounding the development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines would spur bad guys to launch new vaccine-themed phishing campaigns. So, we recently released eight new simulated phishing templates for the KMSAT security awareness training platform.

Now, just two weeks after that announcement (and on the very day that the UK launched its own mass vaccination program), the first real vaccine-themed phishing emails have arrived. Let's take a look.

The first one reported to us by customers using the Phish Alert Button (PAB) uses the very kind of social engineering scheme that we anticipated. This email appears to be trying to exploit a very recent report in The Washington Post that Pfizer may not be able to supply additional doses of its vaccine to the United States in large volumes until sometime in Q2.

Predictably enough, the link in the email body takes unwitting clickers to a credentials phish. To be sure, the language used in the body of that malicious email is a bit stilted -- definitely not the effortlessly clear prose one would expect in a professionally written email of this type. But it will do.

As it turns out, this particular phish compares quite well with one of the eight simulated phishing templates we introduced two weeks ago!

The social engineering scheme in both emails exploits some of the basic questions and concerns that users and employees will have about the several vaccines currently on the cusp of widespread distribution:

- How soon will a vaccine be available?
- Will it be safe?
- How can I get it?
- When can I get it?
- How much will it cost?

Should I get it?

Put very simply, this is pretty much what we expected.



Conclusion

Malicious actors had a field day back in March in April as the Coronavirus washed over countries around the world. It was and still is the perfect tool for social engineering scared, confused, and even downright paranoid end users into opening the door to your organization's network.

Nine months later, as an entirely predictable round of vaccine-themed phishing emails begins to land in your employees' inboxes, it is high time to get your users up to speed by stepping them through New-school Security Awareness Training and testing them with the vaccine-themed simulated phishing templates already available in KMSAT.

Full post with several example screenshots:

<https://blog.knowbe4.com/theyre-here-covid-19-vaccine-phishes-finally-arrive>



Online Learning

Upcoming Webinars & Meetings

Engaging Take and Makes on a Shoestring Budget (CLRC)

Thursday, January 14, 10:00am

Libraries are no strangers to providing various forms of entertainment to our patrons. However, now that our patrons are spending more time at home, they're looking for more to do. In this webinar, we'll provide Take and Make project ideas for adults, teens, and children.

Remote Accessibility - Building Proverbial Ramps to Online Library Interactions (CLRC)

Thursday, January 21, 10:00am

With the recent push to remote instruction, reference services, and document delivery, the priorities for providing disability in access have shifted. This webinar looks at what are best practices that libraries and their staff can adopt to provide an inclusive experience for all:

- What are captions and audio descriptions
- The truth behind automated captioning
- How to present inclusively
- Providing electronic documents dos and don'ts
- What are disabled patrons saying

After Emergency Response Mode – Approaching Virtual Storytimes with Intention (CLRC)

Thursday, February 11, 3:00pm

Many libraries closed physical buildings to the public in March, but nothing stops storytime! Library staff rushed to adapt this essential routine and keep families connected to stories, songs and community. In this webinar, we will embrace the power of the pause to reflect and dive deep into our new virtual storytime normal.

Select Southern Tier (South Central Regional Library Council, SCRLC) when registering for CLRC webinars!



Conferences & Special Programs



Improving Access to Civil Legal Justice Through Public Libraries Project



Through the **Improving Access to Civil Legal Justice through Public Libraries** project, WebJunction has worked with subject matter experts to create courses and resources to strengthen the knowledge and ability of library staff to identify and support civil legal aid issues. Explore these new additions to WebJunction to learn more:

- **Creating Pathways to Civil Legal Justice, a New Self-paced Course Series:** This new series of free, self-paced courses, will augment your ability and confidence to meet civil legal justice information needs in your community. Created in partnership with Legal Services Corporation, this online continuing education opportunity aims to empower all library staff to feel more confident about conducting civil legal reference interviews and connecting patrons to important resources and information that can help improve the lives of your community members.
- **Civil Legal Assistance in Natural Disasters: A Role for the Library:** In the aftermath of a natural disaster, civil legal issues abound. In these stressful situations, when many people have lost so much, they are also faced with untangling legal questions that can be confusing and ever-changing. This article focuses on key ways libraries can help with civil legal issues and questions stemming from a natural disaster.



Programming Ideas

Weedsport Free Library

“Weedsport Free Library’s Tribute Tree: Color the season with love, thanks and hope... During the holiday season pay tribute to people in your life...past, present or future, by purchasing a colored light to replace the white light. Stop by the library or print form and mail it in. Donation includes: the light change, and a ribbon tied to a branch with the honoree’s name, \$3.00 for 1 tribute or \$25 for 10 tributes. Proceeds benefit the library. Tree on display at library through early January.”

Don't forget to celebrate holidays other than Christmas, like Kwanzaa or Chanukah! When I was at Cortland Free Library, I borrowed a menorah from a friend to include with my holiday display and the patrons appreciated the gesture.
~Jenny



The Importance of Self-Care During the Pandemic

Please give yourself some grace during this time. If you are burned out, you’re no good to anyone! Get enough sleep, hydrate, and be kind to yourself. **If you are feeling out-of-control or very anxious please don’t be afraid to reach out to colleagues, friends, family, or a professional.**

Directors, Supervisors, & Trustees – please check in with your staff. Virtual programming and curbside are both incredibly time-intensive (as compared to previous in-person services). Zoom fatigue and burnout are real and can have serious health consequences.

Self-Care for Stressful Times

Mayo Clinic Self-Care Tips

CDC Resources for You & Your Community





Polaris FAQ

Volume Field in BOCD

The volume field is rarely used in a BOCD item record. The field is primarily used for the disc count in a multi-part DVD or Blu-Ray set.

When entering a typical BOCD item into Polaris, leave the volume field blank. Enter “Check for X discs” in the **Free text block** field on the Notes and Notices page of the item record. This block encourages staff to check for the number of discs at Check In and Check Out. Writing “Check for discs” without including the number is not specific enough.

The screenshot shows the Polaris interface with a blue sidebar on the left containing icons for home, search, edit, and navigation. The main content area is divided into 'Notice Dates' and 'Notes' sections. Below these is the 'Blocks' section, which includes a 'Library assigned' dropdown set to '(None)' and a 'Free text' field. The 'Free text' field contains the text 'Please check for 7 CDs.', which is circled in red. Other fields in the 'Notice Dates' section include 'Reminder' (9/25/2017 7:37 AM), '1st overdue', '2nd overdue', '3rd overdue', 'Bill', and 'Hold'. The 'Notes' section includes 'Public', 'Non-public' (28 Jul 14 TEI), 'Physical condition', and 'Special item check-in'.

The only instance where you would enter information into the volume field of a BOCD item record would be if the BOCD is oversized and has to be split into 2 cases. See records A20519226640 and A20519226195 for an example.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|----------|----|--------------|
| A breath of snow and ... | Adult ... | CD - Audiobook | BOCD Gabaldon v. 1 | d. 1-24 | In | A20519226640 |
| A breath of snow and ... | Adult ... | CD - Audiobook | BOCD Gabaldon v. 2 | d. 25-48 | In | A20519226195 |

REMINDER: All trainings will be held virtually until the pandemic ends. Jenny is available for one-on-one and small group Polaris trainings on Zoom. Email jshonk@fls.org to schedule a session.



A special THANK YOU to my Polaris Zoom test subjects this year: Fran at BERK, Jill at INT, Martsje at HOM, Ben & Amy at PORT, and the staff at TCPL! You all helped me figure out the best techniques for holding Polaris trainings on Zoom and I greatly appreciate your patience and input!



Awards & Grants

Congratulations to the Phillips Free Library for being awarded an **ALA Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries** grant! The library will undertake the collection and creation of a digital collection of community members' COVID-19 stories. We look forward to hearing updates about this project!

Apply Now: Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant

ALA invites library workers to apply for the **Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant**, an annual grant supporting innovative and meaningful community engagement efforts in libraries.

Applications will be accepted between Dec. 1, 2020, and Feb. 5, 2021. View the full award guidelines and apply online at www.ala.org/LTCEG.

The Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant recognizes, promotes and supports innovative and meaningful community engagement efforts in libraries. It provides \$2,000 for a school, public, academic, tribal or special library to expand its community engagement efforts.

Each year, the grant focuses on supporting a community engagement project with a specific theme. For the 2020–2021 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications for a community engagement project that focuses on anti-racism.

Visit the [grant guidelines](#) for resources on anti-racist theory and practices.

Libraries are invited to apply by designing and outlining activities for a library-led community engagement project. Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members – be they library patrons, residents, faculty, students, or local organizations – to address issues for the betterment of the community.

Project activities to be covered by the grant may include developing community engagement programs and services; partnering with a community agency that builds the capacity of the community to address an important concern/issue; or creating a program or event that connects the library to a community-identified aspiration or concern.

The Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant is part of **Libraries Transforming Communities** (LTC), ALA's community engagement initiative. Since 2014, LTC has reimagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types, from across the country, have utilized the free dialogue and deliberation training and resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a safe space for residents to come together to discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees and staff.

Other Grant Opportunities:

Apply Now: The Inaugural Peggy Barber Tribute Grant

Penguin Random House Library Award for Innovation