



FINGER LAKES
LIBRARY SYSTEM



MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

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.

NYS Annual Reports for Public Libraries will be due to Kristi Downham by March 1. Boards of Trustees should plan accordingly and make sure your Annual Reports are on your February board meeting agendas to be voted on by your board so that you can get your reports in on time. *At this time, no extensions will be given.*

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[Combating Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia: Children's Lit Resource Round-Up](#)

[NYSL Digital Equity Summits and Webinar Series](#)



[REALM project Test 7 and 8 results available](#)

[Newfield Library to open new history center](#)

[American Libraries Buyers Guide: Vendors to fit your every need](#)

Did you miss an issue? Check <https://www.flls.org/bulletin>
for archived Weekly Bulletins

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Here are some updates for you:

2021 Advocacy Day – This year's Virtual Advocacy Day will take place on Friday, February 26. Thank you to the directors, staff, and trustees who have signed up for this important opportunity to speak to our legislators. A reminder that you have until the close of business on Friday, February 19 to sign up for a slot. If you can't make it on the 26th, we urge you to email your legislators, make phone calls, or take part in the NYLA advocacy email campaigns to make sure your support for library aid is heard this year.

During our advocacy time with our legislators, we will be highlighting not only our need for state aid for libraries, but we will also be taking time to showcase all of the innovative and proactive ways our libraries have served our communities during the pandemic.

NYLA Legislative Briefing – On Monday, February 8 I spoke on a NYLA hosted virtual program called "An Introduction to New York's Libraries: Library Systems 101". This program was for members of the legislature and their staff and was attended by over 80 legislators and staffers. I spoke on behalf of PULISDO, the Public Library Systems Directors Organization and used this time to define what a public library system is, our roles and responsibilities to our members, and to also highlight how systems helped our public libraries transition to virtual services and contactless pickup services once libraries were able to open this summer. The program was extremely successful and it was fantastic to see some of our long-time legislators take part in the session. If you would like to view our talk, you can watch it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xH1c0gszWg>.

Member Libraries – As of this week, 5 of our member libraries are providing curbside only library services, and the rest (28 libraries) are allowing patrons in their buildings. With numbers decreasing in our service area, we are seeing less library closures due to quarantine or illness requirements. At our directors' meeting this week, we heard examples of popular outdoor family programs such as StoryWalks® and storytimes at some of our libraries this winter. Make sure to check out our libraries' social media pages to see new additions to their collections and virtual programming offerings. Our libraries continue to be incredibly active in their communities throughout this pandemic.

South Central Regional Library Council (SCRLC) – Finger Lakes Library System is looking to have our regional library council, South Central Regional Library Council, move into our building and share our space this summer. SCRLC has 6 staff members, with 1 staff member working remotely out-of-state. The remaining 5 staff members are all currently working from home, and due to State budget cuts, they are looking to leave downtown Ithaca to save rent expenses. Our boards have been having ongoing discussions and during the February 17 FLLS Board of Trustees meeting, an official vote to have SCRLC move into our building (if both organizations are agreeable with the terms) was passed unanimously. We have discussed this with our member library directors and FLLS staff, during various meetings over the last few months, and welcome this opportunity to share our space with an organization that shares our mission.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.
Sarah



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Waterloo Library is now on TikTok!

"Once we figured it out it was a lot of fun to create them. Youtube was very helpful in our learning curve." - Brandi Rozelle, Director

Click on the images below to view the videos. Make sure to unmute the videos if you are viewing them on a desktop or laptop computer.



Click on this symbol to unmute the videos!

Have something to share? Email jshonk@flls.org!

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SCAM ALERT!

New Phishing Attack Uses Morse Code to Avoid Detection By Your Email Scanners

Yes – you read that right: Cybercriminals have found a way to use 1830's technology to trick 2020s security solutions into not identifying phishing attachments as malicious. Like you, when I first read about this I shook my head and thought "no way – how would that even work?!?" But according to a post on reddit, the bad guys realized they could digitally encode their malicious java script in Morse Code, effectively bypassing any email scanners.

The phishing attack starts out like any other, using some basic social engineering around paying an invoice and hosting an attachment made to look like an invoice with the filename '[company_name]_invoice_[number]._xlsx.html.'

But upon further inspection of the attachment, it leverages JavaScript, containing a basic decoding function where each letter and number is assigned a Morse code value, and then calls to decode a massive amount of Morse code stored within the file.

The result is when the html attachment is scanned, its contents appear benign to a security solution. But when run, the script converts the Morse code into two additional JavaScript tags that are injected into the page and executed. The result of all this is a pretty creative rendering of a fake Excel document and an Office 365 logon screen, stating the user's session had timed out.

Creative? Yes. Unique? No – bad guys can derive even their own simple character replacement encoding (e.g., 'A' would be replaced with 'D', 'B' with 'E', etc.) and one can achieve the same result.

The real stopping point here is the bogus email theming and horrible attachment name. Users that get stepped through security awareness training are able to quickly see this for what it is and stop the attack before it goes any further than making it past your filters.

Blog post with example screen shot: <https://blog.knowbe4.com/new-phishing-attack-uses-morse-code-to-avoid-detection-by-email-scanners>





ONLINE LEARNING

Upcoming Webinars

Library Advocacy Day Legislative & Social Media Advocacy Briefing (NYLA)

Monday, February 22, 3:30pm

During this event, Briana, our Director of Government Relations & Advocacy will go over what to expect during a virtual advocacy day and this year's legislative and budget priorities. Then, Christina, our Communications and Marketing Manager, will teach us how to be social media advocates in the new virtual advocacy world. Finally, we will have a Q&A session with any remaining questions.

Trustee Essentials (FLLS)

Monday, March 1, 10:00-11:30am

Tuesday, March 2, 2:00-3:30pm

Wednesday, March 3, 5:30-7:00pm

No registration is required; just simply use the Zoom link (<https://flls.zoom.us/j/96987284486?pwd=Z1VLSG1xandKYldobG9PQnBqS3E4Zz09>) to join one of our webinars. We are offering a morning, afternoon and evening session and all three will cover the same exact materials. While geared for new board members of our member libraries, these workshops are open to all board members of our 33 member libraries who feel they need a refresher or basic information on how to be an effective library trustee. Topics will include roles and responsibilities of trustees, best practices for effective board meetings, and a review of Open Meetings Law. We will also explain what services Finger Lakes Library System offers to trustees and our member libraries. Sessions will be presented by Sarah Glogowski, Executive Director of FLLS.

Virtual and in-person library programming for parents and infants: Who, how, what, when, where, and why? (NYS)

Tuesday, March 2, 1:30pm

A Ready to Read at New York Libraries early literacy webinar presented by Betsy Diamant-Cohen. Programming for parents with infants in the library is a relatively new phenomenon; virtual programming for this population is even newer! Why is it important to present programs for children this young? What are the important factors to take into account when programming for these dynamic duos? What type of activities work best and how can they be adapted virtually?

Why Diverse Books Matter (CLRC)

Thursday, March 11, 3:00pm

During this session, Dr. Krista Aronson will share her research and thinking about why racially/culturally diverse books matter, including her research on this topic. She will also share information about the Diverse BookFinder and its Collection Analysis Tool (CAT) and be available to answer questions about how to utilize CAT reports to enhance collection development.

Girls Who Code Info Session (PLS)

Tuesday, February 23, 1:00pm

Pioneer Library System invited FLLS member libraries to attend this session! Join Emily Ong from Girls Who Code to learn more about after-school programs that can be easily implemented at public libraries. Clubs are for 3rd-5th and 6th-12th grade girls to join a sisterhood of supportive peers and role models using computer science to change the world. Clubs can be held virtually or in-person. Free curriculum, meeting guides, resources, and facilitator support are provided, and facilitators do not need to have any coding or technical experience to start a Club. Girls Who Code is on a mission to close the gender gap in technology and to change the image of what a programmer looks like and does.

Let's Move in Libraries (PLS)

Friday, March 19, 11:00am

Everyone has a role to play in increasing healthy living, including libraries! Let's Move in Libraries is an international initiative to get people of all ages and abilities on the path to health. With their impressive reach and great potential for impact, public libraries can and do support healthy communities through StoryWalks®, seed collections, Yoga classes, gardens, cooking classes, and much, much more. Join Noah Lenstra, Director of Let's Move in Libraries, to learn how your library can join the thousands of libraries around the world promoting healthy living! Pioneer Library System also invited FLLS member libraries to join this session. **Please note:** The registration page says 10am, but the Let's Move in Libraries portion will start at 11am following a PLS system meeting.

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PROGRAMMING IDEAS

Leaving Our Fingerprints: A People's History of COVID-19

FLLS has partnered with the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS) for a new project, **Leaving Our Fingerprints: A People's History of COVID-19**. Visit <https://fingerprints.sals.edu/omeka/> to view the website. It is a work-in-progress, but can now be shared publicly!

We have a special survey just for our system, which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B6RMHDQ> or <https://tinyurl.com/shareyourstory-flls>. The survey is available **NOW**. This survey was designed for adults; a special survey for children and teens is being developed.

Resources including an overview, social media graphics (see below), and social media templates can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jCpLGjjEXaQaie2DTLwml2fOr7MRoOjk?usp=sharing>. For more information about this project, please contact ishonk@flls.org.



**SHARE
YOUR
STORY**

[https://tinyurl.com/
shareyourstory-flls](https://tinyurl.com/shareyourstory-flls)



Sample Copy for Social Media: *Help make history by sharing your story of the COVID-19 pandemic. Just as we relied on information about the Spanish Flu epidemic in 1917-1918 to inform our response to COVID-19, future generations may benefit from understanding what we experienced. By collecting your stories, we become witnesses-to-history, providing insight into daily life during this global pandemic and adding to the historic record.*

How can you get involved? Please take some time to fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/shareyourstory-flls> and feel free to share with your friends, family members, and neighbors — the more people participate, the better understanding we'll have of the impact of COVID-19.



POLARIS FAQ

Innovative Documentation & Videos

Innovative has opened up their documentation and training/informational videos websites, no login required:

<https://vimeopro.com/innovativeiii/webinars>

<https://documentation.iii.com/product-documentation/polaris2.php>

<https://innovative.libguides.com/polaris> (screenshot below)

The screenshot shows the Innovative Polaris Training and Learning Center website. At the top left is the Innovative logo (a ProQuest Company). To the right is the 'Training' logo. Below the logo is a breadcrumb trail: 'Innovative Interfaces / support.iii.com / Polaris / Welcome'. The main heading is 'Polaris: Welcome' with the subtext 'Polaris training and learning resources.' To the right of this is a search box with the placeholder text 'Search Polaris training materia' and a 'Search' button. Below the search box is a navigation bar with tabs: 'Welcome', 'Acquisitions', 'Cataloging', 'Serials', 'Patron Services', 'PAC', 'System Administration', and 'Reporting Tools'. Below the navigation bar is a link 'Go to Polaris Home' with a house icon. The main content area is titled 'Introduction to Polaris Training and Learning Resources' and contains three paragraphs of text explaining the center's purpose, resources, and organization.

What is the Polaris Training and Learning Center (PTLC)? The Polaris Training and Learning Center is a new training website, built on the LibGuides platform, for storing and sharing training resources with our library partners.

What type of resources are included in the Polaris Training and Learning Center? We include a variety of training documentation such as training agendas, Polaris guides, checklists, how to articles and videos, recordings of live webinars and links to other useful Innovative resources.

How is the Polaris Training and Learning Center organized? The Polaris Training and Learning Center is organized by system functionality. Browse training resources by functionality using the tabs at the top - such as acquisitions, cataloging, patron services, PAC, serials, system administration, and reporting. The Welcome tab provides access to all the training agendas, Polaris Guides, navigation tips, and training resources news and highlights.

Can I search the Training and Learning Center? Use the search box on the top right corner to search the Polaris Training and Learning Center.

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@flls.org to schedule a session.

REMINDER: Polaris handouts on the FLLS website have been updated. To access the handouts visit <https://www.flls.org/> and click on **STAFF LOGIN**. Enter the username and password and click on **Log In**. Then click on **Polaris Documentation**.

Please contact jshonk@flls.org, efranks@flls.org, or rhelwig@flls.org for the username and password.

PAC brochures have also been updated, visit <https://www.flls.org/brochures/> and scroll down to **Library Catalog Brochures**.



AWARDS & GRANTS

Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus On Small and Rural Libraries

Round 2 Now Open!



The American Library Association (ALA) invites libraries in small and rural communities to apply for grant funding to help them address issues of concern in their communities.

Up to 650 U.S. libraries in small and rural communities will receive \$3,000 each to tackle issues ranging from media literacy to COVID-19 safety to unemployment. Grants will be awarded in two rounds in 2020 and 2021.

[Learn about the libraries funded in Round 1](#)

[Learn how your library can be part of Round 2](#)

Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is part of ALA's longtime commitment to preparing library workers for the expanding role of libraries. The initiative is offered in partnership with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL). Questions? [Contact ALA's Public Programs Office.](#)

For Applicants

- [Project guidelines](#)
- [Frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [Apply online](#)
- [Is your library eligible? Click here to find out](#)
- [Read example proposals from Round 1](#)

Schedule a Consultation: The ALA Public Programs Office staff is here to support you in applying for the LTC: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries grant! Please [fill out the google form to request a 20-minute phone consultation](#). ALA staff will reach out to schedule an appointment based on your preferences and team availability.

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