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ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK
The Great 2021 Fall Book Preview: Our 60 best reads for right now

Don’t Miss These Banned Books Week Coalition Events!

Work in Progress: Workforce Development in Public Libraries

Finger Lakes Library System’s Trustee Newsletter

South Central Regional Library Resources Council Career Coaching

Confronting History | Tulsa library educates on race massacre

Laura Mielenhausen introduced as newest leader of Ulysses Philomathic Library

Banned Books Week is 9/26-10/2! Click [HERE](https://bannedbooksweek.org/) for free downloads from ALA and visit [https://bannedbooksweek.org/](https://bannedbooksweek.org/) for even more resources!
FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of fall! Here are some updates for you:

Construction Aid - Lauren Moore, Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian, announced on September 15 that the NYS Library, in partnership with New York’s 23 public library systems, awarded $14 Million in State Aid for Library Construction funds for the FY2020-21 projects. Throughout the State, there were 135 projects. These awards are typically received earlier but were delayed due to COVID-19. A list of all of the FY2020-21 State Aid for Library Construction projects is posted on the State Library’s website. Finger Lakes had three member library projects: the Seymour Library in Auburn, the Waterloo Library and Historical Society and Tompkins County Public Library. Those three projects totaled $421,048.

Our current cycle of library construction projects will be voted on this Wednesday, September 29 at the Finger Lakes Library System Board of Trustees meeting.

NYLA Governance Task Force – The task force met earlier this week to go over our final revisions for the New York Library Association’s bylaws. Our work as a task force is to both review and update the bylaws and make necessary revisions and suggestions. The task force has agreed that we are satisfied with our revisions and have asked that it be passed on to legal counsel for review. The task force is aiming for the legal review to be complete by early October and the bylaws to be on the October 7 NYLA Council agenda. Once it passes NYLA Council’s review, it will go out to the full NYLA membership for review and comments. A vote on the bylaw changes will take place on November 4 during the NYLA Conference.

Now that our bylaw review is coming to a close, the task force will be briefly looking at policies and other NYLA documents for suggestions and review. The NYLA President is also in the process of forming a search committee for the Executive Director position. I will be able to share more information on the search process and the committee shortly.

FLLS Board of Trustees – The FLLS Board of Trustees will be meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, September 29 at 5:30pm. We have many agenda items this month including: our audit review, our 990 review, voting on library construction aid projects, a FLLS construction project that will be for extra insulation for a specific area of our building, and our Plan of Service. A reminder that our Plan of Service actually is three different documents: our regular Plan of Service for the next five years, our Free Direct Access Plan, and our Central Library (TCPL) Plan of Service for the next five years.

FLLS Annual Meeting – Look for more information next week about our upcoming Annual Meeting, which will be held via Zoom on Friday, October 15 at 10am. During this meeting, we will voting in new trustees, holding a brief business meeting, and I will be sharing updates with directors and trustees. We hope to see you, albeit virtually, this year!

I hope everyone has a wonderful and relaxing weekend!

Sarah
Coburn Free Library celebrated their brand new Accessibility Annex with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 16. Visit their Facebook page for more pictures and read more about the celebration and annex in the following articles:

Coburn Free Library holds ribbon cutting following renovations

Accessibility for all!
SCAM ALERT!
A New Phishing Attack on Microsoft 365 Users
Leverages Open Redirects To Avoid Detection

The use of open redirects from legitimate domains makes phishing emails that much more believable and credible, obfuscating the dangerous nature of these attacks.

In the ongoing saga of attacks on Microsoft 365 users, security analysts at Microsoft recently announced a widespread attack that utilizes open redirects – a technique used in web development to point to the URL visitors of a website should be taken to once the initially-visited page is done processing the visit.

A simple example of an open redirect is the following:

According to Microsoft, attackers will use a bit more trickery to fool those that choose to hover over links in emails before clicking on them, embedding a malicious URL within what appears to be a trusted URL (note the red portion of the screenshot at the blog)

In many cases, redirects to malicious URLs first take visitors to Google reCAPTCHA pages to further obfuscate the nature of the final destination from security solutions designed to evaluate email links.

While evaluating destination URLs via hovering over links in an email is definitely a good security practice, threat actors are becoming wise to this and are taking steps such as those mentioned above to make it even more difficult to spot a malicious link.

Users should be taught via Security Awareness Training to be more mindful of the actual message being sent – if unsolicited, it should be treated with at least a bit of distrust and scrutiny, being certain it is legitimate before engaging with links – benign or malicious.

Blog post with links and screenshot:

THINK before you CLICK
UPCOMING WEBINARS

FLLS Polaris Trainings via Zoom
Please join us for a series of Polaris webinars this fall! Registration is required. All sessions will be recorded and available to view on Vimeo.

Polaris New User Part 1
Wednesday, October 20, 10am
Description | REGISTER

Polaris New User Part 2
Wednesday, October 27, 10am
Description | REGISTER

Polaris Item Maintenance Part 1
Wednesday, November 10, 10am
Description | REGISTER

Polaris Item Maintenance Part 2
Wednesday, November 17, 10am
Description | REGISTER

LIBRARIAN’S GUIDE TO HOMELESSNESS
FREE On Demand!

To gain access to the webinar series, please have staff members email jshonk@flls.org.

October’s Webinar: Q&A With Ryan
Thursday, October 14 at 2pm

Sample questions:
- Is there a specific patron that you are unsure how to handle and would like guidance?
- Do you have specific questions about people experiencing homelessness, poverty, mental illness, or substance abuse?
- Do you have a coworker who struggles when dealing with challenging patrons and want to know how to help them?

Registration is required, REGISTER!
To submit a video question, click HERE.

CONFERENCE & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Trustee Handbook Book Club
Join co-authors of the Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State Jerry Nichols and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich for this fun and informative series! Each month trustees are encouraged to read a chapter of the Trustee Handbook and send in questions that the authors will address at live events later this year. Trustees and Directors from all public library systems in New York State are welcome.

Tuesday, October 19, 5:00pm
Duties & Responsibilities | REGISTER

Tuesday, November 16, 5:00pm
Library Board Meetings | REGISTER

Tuesday, December 14, 5:00pm
Personnel | REGISTER

SCRLC 55th Annual Membership Meeting
Wholehearted Libraries: Meeting the Needs of Community with Dr. Michael Stephens
October 22, 9:30am
The most important challenge we are facing in libraries now is ensuring we are open and welcoming for everyone. The world has changed so much in the last few years. We need to make sure our services meet the needs of those who might visit the library to feel safe. Those who need access to information and services that may help them get on solid ground in their lives. The underserved and the invisible should feel welcome and encouraged in our spaces, both physical, virtual and across the community itself. And every voice should be heard. Every story told...Continue Reading

INTERNET LIBRARIAN 2021
October 26-28
The conference is going virtual. If you would like to attend now that it is virtual, the Empire State Library Network has a discount code for you. A virtual pass is $199 (regularly $299). Use code: 21ES.

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Programming Librarian Program Model:
Fairy Golf: The Mini-est Mini Golf

“It's DIY table-top putt putt! We provided patrons with everything they need to create a mini miniature golf hole complete with obstacles. Each participant had the choice to take their project home or to make it during our in-person program and add it to the Fairy Golf Course around the library. The course will stay up as a passive activity in the weeks to come.”

YALSA TeenTober

TeenTober, a new, nationwide celebration hosted by libraries every October and aims to celebrate teens, promote year-round teen services and the innovative ways teen services helps teens learn new skills, and fuel their passions in and outside the library. Download your TeenTober Toolkit today.

For Further Reading...

Mask Up for Story Time

Report on Library Programming Offers Recommendations to the Field

'Knowing Your Community': What It Really Means for Programming Librarians

What’s the Story?: Ideas for Creative StoryWalk Programming
POLARIS FAQ

Placing Holds: Multi-Request in Polaris Leap

You can also place multiple holds in Polaris Leap. This function could be used for a patron who would like multiple books by the same author or books of the same genre/subject. Using the search bar at the top of the screen, search for the patron by name or barcode. After locating the patron’s account, click on the Holds/Held section. Then, click on More → Multiple Holds.

A hold request workform will open. Click on ADD TITLES. The Find Tool will open, allowing you to search for records and select multiple records to place on hold.

Simply click in the box next to each record. When done, click Open. The titles will now appear in the workform. You can change activation/expiration dates and pickup location. Click on PLACE HOLD to place these titles on hold.

REMINDER: All trainings will be held virtually in 2021. Jenny is available for one-on-one and small group Polaris trainings on Zoom. Email jshonk@fls.org to schedule a session.

REMINDER: To access Polaris handouts on our website, visit https://www.fls.org/ and click on STAFF LOGIN. Enter the username and password and click on Log In. Then click on Polaris Documentation. Please contact jshonk@fls.org, efranks@fls.org, or rhelwig@fls.org for the username and password.
The Friends is offering local librarians, library assistants, and future librarians grants to continue their professional education. These grants are available to staff members of libraries within Tompkins County to partially cover costs of attending professional meetings, workshops, training sessions, and conferences, and to defray the cost of course work. Awards amounts are typically in the several hundreds of dollars.

The applicant must provide information about the content of the proposed program, associated costs, and any other available financial support, as well as two letters of recommendation, one from a supervisor. There is a link to a PDF of the application form on the website of the Education Grants Committee: http://www.friendsoftcpl.org/grants/education-grants/. Completed applications should be submitted electronically to edgrants@booksale.org by October 26, 2021. Applicants who are unable to apply electronically should contact avolckmar@gmail.com. Grant recipients will be informed by November 10, 2021.

ALA has announced a new grant for libraries designed to spark conversations about American history and culture through an examination of the women’s suffrage movement. To qualify for this grant, the applying institution must be a library (public, tribal, school, academic, or special) residing in the U.S. or U.S. territories. Read the grant guidelines and frequently asked questions.

Through Let’s Talk About It (LTAI): Women’s Suffrage, participants will read a series of books curated by humanities scholars and discuss the people and events from this often under-taught part of U.S. history. Twenty-five libraries will be selected to receive a $1,000 stipend to support programming costs, ten copies of five themed books, access to programming guides and support materials, virtual training on the LTAI model, a suite of online resources and more. Applications will be accepted from September 1 to December 1, 2021. Library workers can apply online at ala.org/ltai. Please reach out to publicprograms@ala.org with any questions!

Rosen Grant Reports

The 2020 Rosen Grant Report is now available on their grant portal CommunityForce. The report is due on Thursday, September 30 at 9pm. Please reach out to Heidi heckerson@flis.org if you have any questions.