



MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Friday, December 17, 2021

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Click [HERE](#) to download the Holiday Marketing Kit from OverDrive!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Whenever your service model changes, please fill out the streamlined online reopening form: www.fls.org/2020reopenpoll/. Visit www.fls.org/member-library-service-status/ to view each library's quarantine period & hours information.

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[School librarians speak out against recent upsurge in attempts to ban books](#)



[Expansion of library aid signed into law](#)

[Library Journal: Best Books 2021](#)

[Library Journal: America's Star Libraries](#)

[NYS SLSA Statement on Intellectual Freedom in School Libraries](#)

[Malcolm X's former prison cell becomes first of 1,000 planned 'freedom libraries'](#)

Did you miss an issue?

Check <https://www.fls.org/bulletin> for archived bulletins!

FROM THE DIRECTOR



As we close 2021, I want to look back at some of accomplishments we have achieved:

Openness of Libraries – At the beginning of 2021, with numbers high and access to vaccines restricted to medical employees, our libraries were still offering services. Many libraries were operating at reduced hours and were offering contactless pickup options to patrons. The pandemic has showed us how agile and adaptive our libraries are in

offering continued library services and we have found that patrons still like contactless pickup! Some of our libraries continue to offer this to patrons.

The State Library formed a committee to evaluate openness of libraries that I co-chaired for the State. Each month our committee looked at library hours, access to computers, restrooms, meeting rooms, and more for public libraries throughout the State. As more and more libraries opened access in the spring and summer of 2021, our committee recommended that libraries be fully open by January 1, 2022. This continues to be the requirement for libraries, and I'm happy to report that all libraries in our service area are fully open to the public and will meet this requirement.

Library Programming – During the pandemic, our libraries quickly shifted to offering virtual programs for all ages – from virtual Lego clubs, to lectures and book discussion groups. Summer reading programs, especially those held outside, were extremely popular and offered families a safe way to have family fun this summer. Many of our libraries received grants for programming tents, microphones, and other AV equipment to help with outdoor programming. Did you know that some of our libraries held and continue to hold outdoor programs for kids in the winter? From storytimes and crafts, to STEM programs and other fun outdoor activities, our libraries even meet patrons outside when it snows.

Advocacy Efforts – Not only did we advocate for library funding and increased construction aid, but FLLS staff and our members also advocated for vaccine access for library workers last winter and continue our advocacy efforts for consortia purchasing of services, such as health care for our libraries. FLLS helped many of our libraries advocate for successful school ballot referendum votes and all ballot votes passed. County budget talks were successful this year and we are starting to see increases, instead of pandemic decreases, in our county funding.

State Requirements – I realize we are still in tough times. Over the past year, we have gone from mask mandates, to relaxation of mandates, and back to mask mandates. Open meetings law continues to be relaxed until January 15, 2022 and will most likely be extended. Our libraries have been working hard over 2021 to make sure they are meeting the new minimum standards the State requires for all libraries. We are preparing for the upcoming requirement of trustee education compliance in 2023.

I know none of us wants to be in the position we are in at this time. The FLLS staff, our member libraries, and boards continue to work harder than ever during these changing times. A reminder that our system remains committed to helping all of you.

I wish everyone a joyous and safe holiday season. We look forward to helping you next year and beyond. I will be in the office over the next two weeks in you need assistance while the majority of our staff take much-needed time off.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year,

Sarah



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Do you have something to share? Email jshonk@flls.org!
Click on an image below to visit the library's Facebook page!





SCAM ALERT!

[HEADS UP] Tricky New TSA PreCheck Scam Steals Your Personal and Credit Card Details

Doing one of the best jobs impersonating a website ever seen, this new scam attempts to take those renewing or initially signing up through a believable process that most would fall for.

Most of the time, impersonation scams take you to a “website” that’s more than a single web page designed to look like the login page of the impersonated brand. But a new scam centered around registering for or renewing with TSA PreCheck takes the impersonation website to an entirely new level.

According to security researchers at Abnormal Security, this new scam starts out as wonky as most phishing scams with an email that doesn’t quite feel like it’s really from the TSA.

But where it gets interesting is when potential victims click the link and are taken to a pretty believable TSA registration site.

According to Abnormal Security, the scammer went through the trouble of not just collecting the salient personal details they can misuse later, but went as far as to ask nearly all the same questions found in the actual application.

And unlike most scams, they are attempting to take your credit card where payment is solicited for up front. This scam takes “payment” when it normally would – at the end of the process. This scam is one of the reasons KnowBe4 exists – to educate users through new-school security awareness training so they won’t be fooled by these kinds of scams. The sender email address and email copy are dead giveaways – something well-trained users will spot a mile away, avoiding the scam all together.

Check out the screenshots at this blog post:

<https://blog.knowbe4.com/new-tsa-precheck-scam-seeks-to-collect-your-personal-and-credit-card-details>





ONLINE LEARNING

Upcoming Webinars

CLRC Program Planning Made Easy

Wednesday, January 12, 2:30pm

Modern library programming involves incorporating popular trends, research on language and reading acquisitions, as well as developmental milestones, and of course fun! Pulling that off with ease requires solid planning and organization. Program planning doesn't have to be time consuming. We'll discuss strategies for organizing your ideas, work, and materials in a way that maximizes your planning time investment.

CLRC Introduction to Writing for the Web

Monday, January 20, 3:00pm

We will start off by talking about how people read online and the way they look for information to answer their questions. After understanding how people read online, we will discuss what the inverted pyramid style is and how it can be used to write effective content. Next, we will take a look at some examples of well-formatted content and deconstruct them. Along the way, we will be doing some short exercises where we will rewrite the content to make it easier to be read online. The webinar will help provide you with practice in how to format content and create something that is a bit more concise and user-friendly for people. During the webinar, we will explore how people read online and how writing content can make it easier for them to find the information they need.

WebJunction "Let's Talk Race" Toolkits

Tuesday, February 22, 3:00pm

Talking openly about race with kids can dramatically improve their racial literacy—but adults often don't know where to start! Staff from the Salt Lake City Public Library (SLCPL) will share how they built picture book-based kits to give caregivers the tools to have these important conversations. The session will also include discussion on book selection, the SLCPL framework for understanding racial literacy, and some of the joys and challenges that were faced during development and implementation. You'll receive a list of favorite race education resources, and a step-by-step plan for developing kits on your own.

Conferences & Special Programs



Library Journal: How To Build an Antiracist Library Culture

February 15, 22, & March 1

\$237.24 with Early Bird Discount thru 12/17

Through this course, you'll learn about the concrete actions library leaders are taking to help cultivate an antiracist, inclusive library culture—from reflecting on their own implicit biases, to evaluating spaces, programs, and services and examining policies and practices through an antiracist lens. Practical coursework, along with targeted support, will take you from theory to application, providing tools and resources that will help you to transform your library culture and services to more equitably meet the needs of your community.

PLA 2022 Conference

March 23-25

Portland, Oregon

Like the institutions they support, the role of the public library worker is ever-changing. The COVID-19 crisis magnified this more than any of us could have imagined, but public libraries responded swiftly and creatively to meet their communities' evolving needs. The PLA 2022 Conference is also evolving in order to provide public library professionals the opportunity to reconnect with one another, recreate the services they provide, and revitalize the passion for the work they do every day. While some aspects of the conference may be different due to safety measures, you can still expect to find the top-quality educational programming, awe-inspiring speakers, award-winning authors, and trend-setting exhibitors the PLA Conference is known for. Registration is now open! See page 8 of this bulletin for scholarship information.

Librarian's Guide to Homelessness FREE On Demand!

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

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PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

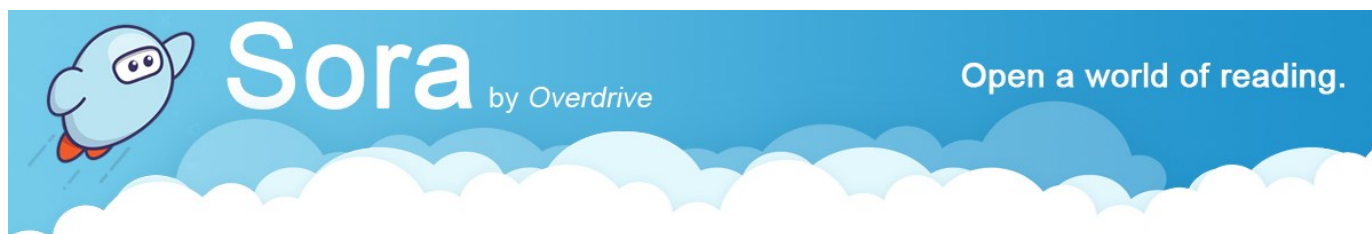
eContent Updates

The eContent Committee held its first meeting on November 29. The group will be working on best practices, e-collection development, identifying new platforms, and more. If you'd like meeting notes email Heidi at heckerson@flls.org.

FLLS' [Reciprocal Lending Arrangement](#) (RLA) with the Southern Tier and Pioneer Library Systems is on track to start at the end of January 2022. Essentially an ILL for digital collections, our patrons will receive top priority on our content for holds while having access to more choices overall.

Public Library CONNECT

FLLS is making its digital collection available to students in our service area through their school library (Sora) accounts. [Public Library Connect](#) is a free program that requires no extra work for our members but it is useful for staff to be aware of this in case community members ask. There will be more information at our January Member Library Support Group



Summer Reading: Save the Dates

FLLS is collaborating with other systems around the state to host two virtual Oceans of Programming Possibilities Summer Reading Workshops.

- **February 16:** Children's programming (9:30 am-12:30 pm)
- **March 10:** Teen programming (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

Additionally, FLLS will hold its own virtual Summer Reading workshop on **March 8 at 11:00am** (replacing the regularly scheduled Member Library Support Group) where you can learn about data collection, evaluation, and reporting. Jenny will share some Adult programming ideas then as well. More details to follow!

MUST READ PROGRAMMING ARTICLES!

[Good Programs Start Small: Attendance Doesn't Equal Success](#)

[Hosting Difficult Conversations at the Library](#)

[Bookish Holiday Crafts and Activities for Kids](#)



POLARIS FAQ

Polaris Training Updates

Please note that Jenny will be focusing on Annual Reports during the month of February so Polaris training appointments will not be available. Exceptions will be made for new staff that require Item Maintenance training.

The Polaris training videos have been finalized and are available on Vimeo, links below. The password to access the videos is the same as for a Polaris workstation and will be sent to the Directors-L list. The videos include clickable timestamps in the description section which allow you to jump to certain topics. Please contact jshonk@flls.org with questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions!

Polaris New User Part 1

Topics included: log on/off, shortcuts, navigation, patron registration, patron services, check in/out, and bibliographic/item records.

Polaris New User Part 2

Topics included: searching and holds.

Polaris Item Maintenance Part 1

Topics included: creating Quick Bibs, creating items records, and special procedures for magazines and audio/visual materials.

Polaris Item Maintenance Part 2

Topics included: creating and using record sets, different types of bulk changes, common ways to change your items from "New" to "not new" (including a SQL search), and working with templates.

REMINDER: To access Polaris handouts on our website, 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.

REMINDER: All trainings will be held virtually in 2022 or until the pandemic ends. Jenny is available for one-on-one and small group Polaris trainings via Zoom. Email jshonk@flls.org to schedule a session.



AWARDS & GRANTS



PLA 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS Applications Now Being Accepted

To encourage equity, diversity, and inclusion in the library profession, PLA is sponsoring fifteen (15) general conference scholarship with five (5) scholarships in each of three categories: Early-career Library Staff Scholarships, Non-Salaried or Unemployed Library Staff Scholarships, and Library School Student Scholarships. Each scholarship includes complimentary registration, one year of ALA and PLA membership, and a \$500 stipend for travel and housing. *These scholarships provide financial assistance for public library workers and students to be able to attend the PLA 2022 Conference in person in Portland, March 23 –25. These scholarships may not be applied toward the PLA 2022 Virtual Conference.*

More information is available here:

https://www.placonference.org/general_scholarships.cfm

Apply Now! Peggy Barber Tribute Grant from ALA



The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant is an annual grant of the American Library Association (ALA) that recognizes, promotes, and supports meaningful programs in libraries that have limited and/or no access to budgetary support for programming. The grant, named after the late library leader Peggy Barber, aims to help ease library budget challenges by awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort.

Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a specific type of library programming. For the 2021-2022 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications for a grant to support **humanities-based programming**.

Applications for the 2021-2022 cycle are now open!

- [Apply online](#) (application open December 1, 2021 - February 1, 2022)
- [Read the grant guidelines](#)
- [Review the frequently asked questions](#)

Margaret "Peggy" Barber was a transformative leader in ALA and the library field who was behind the creation of National Library Week and the Celebrity READ series. [Read Library Journal's tribute](#). After she passed away in September 2019, Barber's friends and colleagues created the Peggy Barber Tribute Fund within ALA's Cultural Communities Fund, which recognizes and funds outstanding cultural programming in libraries. These generous supporters have made this annual grant possible.

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