FINGER LAKES LIBRARY SYSTEM

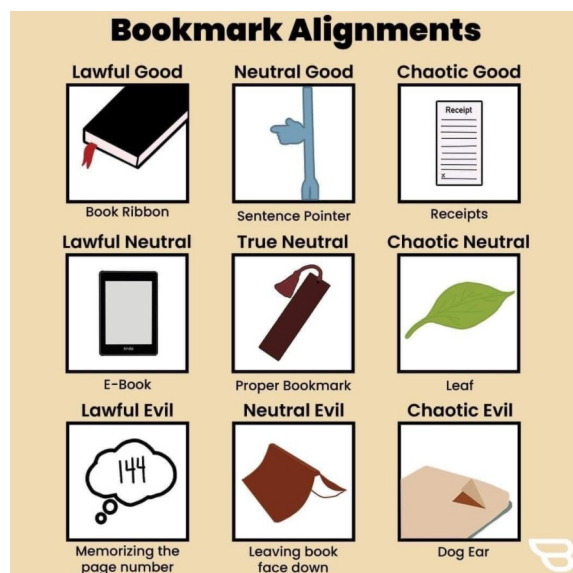# MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

No. 22.1   Friday, January 14, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

You can click on each link below to quickly navigate to your favorite bulletin sections!

Bookmark Alignments

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

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

New year, new routing list! With new faces and new titles Heidi is updating the professional magazine routing lists. Even if you are currently on the list please **fill out this form** with your preferences. The old lists are outdated and will no longer be used.

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

Drive Social Media Success That Connects on a Personal Level

Meet the 2022 I Love My Librarian Award Winners

Public Libraries Aren't Essential Services

Hochul Vetoes New York's Library E-book Bill

The golden age of public libraries dawns again

Black Authors Are Being Pulled From School Libraries Over Critical Race Theory Fears

Did you miss an issue?
Check **https://www.flls.org/bulletin** for archived bulletins!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since this is the first newsletter of the year for FLLS, I would like to start by wishing everyone a very happy new year. Here are some updates for you.

Pandemic – It is hard to believe that we are almost three years into the pandemic, but recently our infection rates and other factors make it seem very much like March 2020 again. Shortly before holiday closures, our libraries began to report increased staff illnesses and an increased number of staff in either quarantine or isolation. We have had libraries close temporarily and libraries who have had to temporarily shift to curbside.

All of our libraries are meeting the state requirement of providing regularly scheduled open hours that meet minimum requirements. These regularly scheduled hours must be for in-person services; curbside and lobby services no longer count toward hours open. However, our State Librarian understands that temporary closures due to COVID will happen and at the end of 2021, she released a statement that read: "We understand that libraries might have to close temporarily due to operational issues like temporary staff shortages. As always, those temporary deviations do not have to be reported and will not count against regularly scheduled hours open. However, the expectation is that otherwise libraries will remain open and serving the public through in-person services."

If your library needs to shift to curbside for a few days, close temporarily or alter your weekly hours, please contact me immediately for guidance.

Open Meetings Law – I was hoping by the time I wrote this that I would have updated guidance for you, but unfortunately, we are still in limbo. Both houses of the New York State Legislature have passed a bill that would extend the current adjustments to Open Meetings Law that enables online meetings throughout the remainder of the state emergency. As of right now, these provisions would sunset on January 15. The bill has been delivered to the Governor and it is expected she will sign this quickly. I will update everyone once we have confirmation of the extension.

NYLA – I am pleased to finally be able to share an update on the New York Library Association Executive Director Search. Our nine-member search committee met in Albany on December 20 for in-person interviews of two final candidates. After our interviews, the committee met and made a final recommendation for NYLA Council on our selection for the position. NYLA Council met on January 6 and approved our recommendation. AnnaLee Dragon accepted the position and her first day at NYLA will be Monday, February 14. AnnaLee has been the Director of the Kinderhook Memorial Library since 2012 and has also worked at Albany Public Library. She holds an MIS from SUNY Albany. Look for more information on the new Executive Director from NYLA this week.

Advocacy Day – A reminder that Advocacy Day will be on Wednesday, March 2 and will be entirely virtual this year. We expect an Executive Budget to be released by Governor Hochul early next week that will help guide our advocacy messaging. We will be sending out more information on how you can join our advocacy efforts in the coming weeks.

A reminder that the FLLS office will be closed on Monday, January 17 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. While there will be no deliveries on Monday, all libraries will be receiving deliveries on Tuesday. Have a wonderful holiday weekend.

Sarah

MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Do you have something to share? Email jshonk@flls.org!

Cortland Free Library certainly got into the holiday spirit last month!

Waverly Free Library has a book vending machine, how exciting!

SCAM ALERT!

[Heads Up] New Omicron-Themed Phishing Attack is Now Running Rampant

A mean-spirited phishing campaign is mocking victims after infecting their devices with Dridex malware, according to Lawrence Abrams at BleepingComputer.

"Over the past few weeks, one of the Dridex phishing email distributors is having fun toying with victims and researchers," Abrams writes. "This was first seen when the threat actor began trolling security researchers by using their names combined with racist comments as malware file names and email addresses.

Earlier this week, the threat actor spammed fake employee termination letters that displayed an alert stating, 'Merry X-Mas Dear Employees!,' after infecting their device. In a new phishing campaign discovered by MalwareHunterTeam and 604Kuzushi, this same threat actor took it to the next level by spamming emails with a subject of 'COVID-19 testing result' that states the recipient was exposed to a coworker who tested positive to the Omicron COVID-19 variant."
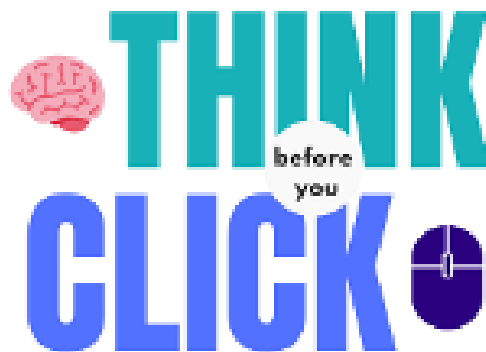
If the victim opens the Excel document and enables macros, their device will be infected with the Dridex banking Trojan. In a poor attempt at humor, the document will then display a popup showing the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline number.

"With the COVID-19 variant being highly contagious and rapidly spreading worldwide, phishing emails about the Omicron variant are becoming popular and are likely highly effective in distributing malware," Abrams writes. "This is especially true if the phishing campaign pretends to be from a company's human resources department and targets employees from the same company."

And the criminals can be as dumb as they are dishonest and mean-spirited. This particular campaign can stand in as exhibit A. New-school security awareness training with simulated phishing attacks enables your employees to make smarter security decisions.

Blog post with links and screenshots:
https://blog.knowbe4.com/omicron-themed-phishing-campaign-is-running-rampant

ONLINE LEARNING

Upcoming Webinars

Introducing: Strategic Planning for Public Libraries (PLA)
Thursday, January 20, 2:00pm
The Public Library Association's newly-released book, Strategic Planning for Public Libraries, provides a framework that libraries of all sizes can use as a basis for their strategic planning. The content is supported by research conducted across more than 200 public library professionals and in-depth interviews with more than twenty library directors and leaders throughout the country. In this free webinar, author Joy Fuller will introduce the strategic planning approach outlined in the book and provide a sneak peek into an important step in the planning process.

METRO: Copy That! Copyright Basics for Library Professionals, Part 1: The Whats and Whys
Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 4:00pm
Copyright affects so much of the creative content we interact with and create. Not just a painting we may see in a museum or a novel we are reading, but also the emails we ourselves send, the blogs and articles we write, and the photos we take and post. This series focuses on basic principles of U.S. copyright law and its impact on us as library professionals, and in our own creative lives. Part 1 will get into what intellectual property is, what copyright law in the U.S. protects (and what it doesn't), and how long it lasts.

CLRC: Mental Health & Wellness 101 with the Mental Health Association in NYS
Tuesday, February 8, 3:00pm
Mental Health and Wellness 101 helps participants to understand mental health in a holistic context and utilize basic mental health awareness in order to self-care and help others.

Librarian's Guide to Homelessness FREE On Demand!

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

Conferences & Special Programs

Trustee Handbook Book Club

The Trustee Handbook Book Club will be continuing in 2022. Visit **https://midhudson.org/trusteebookclub/** to view recordings and register for upcoming sessions!

Library Journal: How to Build Diverse Collections
March 8 | March 15 | March 22
The Early Bird Rate of $237.24 expires on February 4!
In this course, you'll learn from an outstanding group of experts as they explore key concepts essential to cultivating and promoting inclusive and equitable collections. You'll conduct a diversity audit of your collections, and hear about ways to include wider perspectives from and about LGBTQIA people; people of color; ethnic, cultural, religious minorities and more. You'll learn how to ensure that your collections are more reflective of the diversity of your community and the larger world.

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!

PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

Oceans of Programming Possibility Summer Reading Workshops

FLLS is collaborating with several NYS library systems to host two virtual summer reading programming workshops:

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

Join your peers around the state who will be sharing program ideas for Summer 2022 at these virtual workshops. The events will be recorded.

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

Program Suggestion: Armchair Adventurers

From Diane Pamel, director of Southworth Library Association: "We have been doing an Adult reading & Discussion series here at Southworth- "Armchair Adventurers: Explorations in Geography, Culture and Wanderlust". The books I selected were Travels with Charley by Steinbeck (Oct), Neither Here nor There by Bill Bryson (Nov), Postcards from the Borderlands by David Mould (Dec) and we will discuss The Geography of Bliss by Eric Weiner (Jan).

The first two meetings were in person, facilitated by myself and David Flaten (Prof. at TC3). Our plan all along was to have David Mould, who wrote the Postcards book, attend using ZOOM. Last night we turned the entire meeting virtual and did not meet in person at all. While several people could not get that to work, we still had a healthy size participation and David was wonderful!

I highly recommend you check him out: http://davidhmould.com/"

> ### MORE PROGRAMMING IDEAS!
> #### Program Models: Animal Advocates
> #### How to Make a Stunning Coral Reef Decoration for an Under the Sea Party
> #### Groundhog Day Craft (via Programming Librarian Interest Group on FB)

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 to perform their duties.

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. 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

Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund
Community Foundation *of* TOMPKINS COUNTY

CFTC (Rosen) Library Grant Cycle Now Open

The new **application** combines the 2021 grant report and the 2022 grant request. The January 14th Q&A session with Janet was recorded and will be available soon. For more information, including resources and toolkits, visit the **FLLS blog**.

ALA Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant

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

Applications will be accepted between until February 1, 2022. 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 will provide two grants of $2,000 for a school, public, academic, tribal or special library to expand its community engagement efforts.

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.

Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a community engagement project with a specific theme. For the 2021–2022 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications for a community engagement project that focuses on a social justice issue of importance in their communities. Examples of potential topics include racial justice, climate justice, or addressing the digital divide. Libraries should work collaboratively with community members and at least one partner organization to develop a project that addresses a local issue and builds upon community assets.

Visit the **grant guidelines** for more information.