



MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

No. 22.22

Friday, December 16, 2022

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Whenever your service model changes, please fill out the reopening [form](#). Visit this [page](#) to view each library's quarantine period & hours information.

FLLS will be closed on December 26, 30, and January 2.

Upcoming FLLS Staff Vacations: Rex/Jenny 12/19-12/23 & 12/27-12/29; Tom/Heidi 12/27-12/29; Arlene 12/22-12/23 & 12/29. Visit our [Staff Directory](#) and click on the [FLLS Services Contacts Cheat Sheet](#) if you need help & aren't sure who to contact!

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[Spotlight on Safety: Addressing Threats in Public Libraries](#)

[The 23 Most Anticipated Books of 2023](#)



[DEI Audits: The Whole Picture](#)

[Good Things, Small Packages](#)

[2022 Holiday Gift Guide for Librarians and Book Lovers](#)

[Get Creative and Go Big: Successful Large-Scale Events are Possible at the Library](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we close the year, I wanted to highlight some items from 2022:

Advocacy Efforts – The start of 2022 saw Governor Hochul and the legislature focus on the State budget. While Advocacy Day was virtual once again, statewide library advocacy efforts were successful and resulted in an increase in library aid. Other advocacy efforts were focused on library construction aid, school media literacy proposals, and modernization of civil service.



At a local level, our libraries in Cayuga, Seneca, Tioga and Tompkins finalized 2022 county funding advocacy efforts and either maintained or increased county funding for libraries.

Referendums – A record number of our libraries (21) went on the school ballot in 2022 and received increases that ranged from \$2,000 to \$60,000. FLLS assisted the Southworth Library Association and the Tappan-Spaulling Memorial Library going on the school ballot for the first time and each received \$50,000 because of their successful ballot votes. Since October 2022, I have already met with more library boards than usual planning for larger increases in 2023. A reminder that Heidi and I are here to help your libraries with your referendum work.

Member Libraries – During 2022, we had change in leadership in some of our libraries and we offered new director training and provided assistance to those new directors. While the pandemic still affected our libraries, especially in the beginning of 2022 and in late September 2022, our libraries continued to offer a wide range of in-person, hybrid, and virtual programming to meet the needs of our communities. Circulation and library usage has not reached pre-pandemic levels, but the majority of our libraries are at 75 – 80% circulation levels. I loved seeing all of your innovative summer reading programs and community outreach and partnerships over the course of 2022.

FLLS – The staff at FLLS worked hard in 2022 on a variety of things, such as streamlining the annual reporting process for member libraries, IDEA training and policies, workshops for member library staff and trustees, a circulating museum pass program at our libraries, the installation of new Meraki routers in the majority of our libraries, and the return of out-of-system interlibrary loan. As Chair of PULISDO, during 2022 I helped with the creation of a statewide toolkit for library directors and trustees on how to handle material challenges and the October Robert's Rules webinar that reached close to 700 participants throughout the State.

Looking to 2023, I know that many of us are concerned about inflation and talk of a recession. The threat of material and program challenges are of concern to us, not only locally, but statewide and nationally. The Finger Lakes Library System staff and our FLLS Board are committed to helping our members with all of your needs.

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

Best wishes for a Happy New Year,
Sarah



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Click on each image below to view that library's social media page!



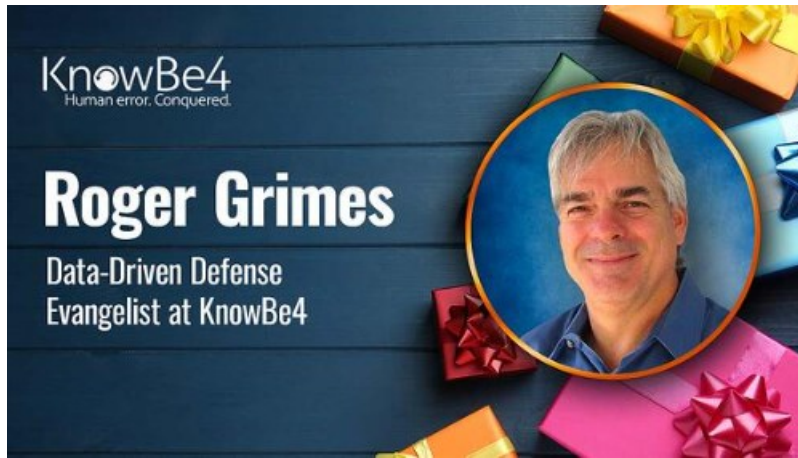
Do you have something to share? Please email jshonk@flls.org!

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SCAM ALERT!

[Keep An Eye Out] Beware of New Holiday Gift Card Scams



Every holiday season brings on an increase in gift card scams. Most people love to buy and use gift cards. They are convenient, easy to buy, easy to use, easy to gift, usually allow the receiver to pick just what they want, and are often received as a reward for doing something. The gift card market is estimated in the many hundreds of BILLIONS of dollars. Who doesn't like to get a free gift card?

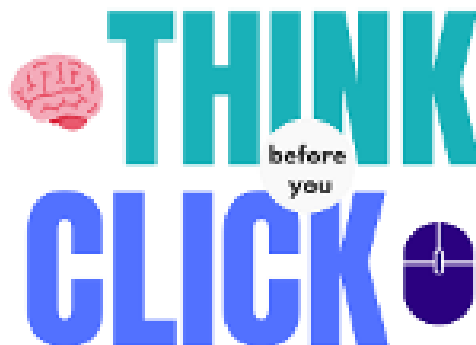
Unfortunately, scammers often use gift cards as a way to steal value from their victims. There are dozens of ways gift cards can be used by scammers to steal money.

Roger covers these three scams in a short video and in detail on the KnowBe4 blog:

- You Need to Pay a Bill Using Gift Cards
- Maliciously Modified Gift Cards in Stores
- Phish You for Information to Supposedly Get a Gift Card

Blog post with video and links you can share with your users and family:

<https://blog.knowbe4.com/beware-of-holiday-gift-card-scams>





CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upcoming Webinars

Grants 101 with Amanda Heidel and Steve Densmore

Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County—FREE

Thursday, January 19, 9:00am-12:00pm

This session will be held in-person in the Borg Warner Room at Tompkins County Public Library. Curious about the grant seeking process? If you are new to grant writing or want to refine your foray into the grant seeking world - this workshop is for you! This Grants 101 workshop will provide a basic overview on grant preparation, writing and research.

We will explore:

- How to make your organization or program “grant ready”
- The essential parts of a proposal
- How to create a budget
- The dos and don'ts of grant writing
- How to research potential opportunities
- Differences and similarities between local, state, and federal resources

Bring your ideas, program, or projects you are working on. This workshop will be interactive to help you move through the process of drafting language and budgets for your proposal.

Native Stories, Native Peoples: Opportunities for Library Engagement

WebJunction—FREE

Wednesday, February 15, 3:00pm

The history and current experiences of Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations are complex, rich and diverse. Libraries can play an important role in counteracting damaging myths and narratives about Native peoples, as well as exploring contemporary struggles and joys. This webinar will highlight opportunities for libraries to connect their communities to accurate and respectful information, fostering understanding and support of Indigenous peoples past and present. Resources for learning about treaties, Tribal Nations and lands, as well as insights into the experiences of Native communities today will also be shared. With a better understanding of these distinctive histories and cultures, library staff can promote learning and knowledge, support engagement with Native issues and peoples, and better serve all individuals in their community.

Conferences & Special Programs



Library Journal Spring 2023 Course Lineup

Learn from library experts all spring long with our 15-course spring lineup! We know everyone has varying needs, so we are pleased to offer a wide range of both topics and structures. Check out some of the most relevant topics we'll be covering:

- 5 courses on DEI, including How to Build an Antiracist Library Culture and Antiracism 201: Digging Deeper in Antiracist Library Cultures
- 3 courses on Marketing and Outreach, including Marketing and Outreach Strategies to Engage Your Community and Social Media Marketing and Engagement Crash Course
- 3 courses on Library Advocacy, including How to Build and Maintain Library Advocacy and Resisting Book Bans Crash Course
- 2 courses on Leadership, including Equity-Centered Library Leadership and Library Boards Crash Course
- 2 courses on Library Instruction, including Equity-Centered Instruction and Manga Crash Course
- 2 courses on Collections, including How to Build Diverse Collections and Jumpstart Inclusive Cataloging

Polaris Help

To access helpful Polaris handouts AND training videos on our website:

1. Visit <https://www.flls.org/> and click on **STAFF LOGIN**.
2. Enter the username & password and click on **Log In**.
3. Then click on **Polaris Documentation**.

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

Polaris documentation and videos from Innovative are also accessible online, with no login required. Please visit:
<https://vimeopro.com/innovativeiii/webinars>
<https://innovative.libguides.com/polaris>

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PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

Library Grant Cycle

The [2023 Library Grant Cycle \(Rosen\)](#) portal will open on January 6, 2023 and closes on February 22, 2023. If you have any questions, reach out to Heidi at heckerson@flls.org.

Have a program or presenter to share? We're crowdsourcing! [Sandy's Survey](#), inspired by Sandy Groth (AURO), is a space for members to share programming ideas. Here's an example from the Phillips Free Library in Homer:

- Name of Presenter/Program: Vanessa Johnson
- Contact info: griotwords@gmail.com
- Brief description of program: Vanessa is a storyteller in the West African tradition. We had her come for Juneteenth and do a program. It was outstanding.

Add your favorite programs/presenters: <https://forms.gle/1CAihkKNZ4BmhfyG9>. We'll compile and share out a full list soon for you to peruse as you develop your grant narratives.

Summer Reading 2023



Bookmark the [FLLS SRP 2023 weblog](#) for information and updates about Summer Reading 2023.

Staying true to this year's *All Together Now* theme, we're planning to host this year's Summer Planning Workshop in-person at FLLS. Details coming soon!

Save the Date: *Virtual System SRP Collaboration Workshops*

- February 15 (Children) and March 2 (YA) 9:30am –12:30pm
 - Let Heidi know if you are interested in presenting a program idea (5-10 mins)
-

eContent

Thank you to all the libraries who submitted eContent Contribution Request forms for our shared OverDrive collection. Diana will be sending invoices out in mid-January 2023.

The eContent Committee held its last meeting of 2022 earlier this week. If you'd like to join us or want the meeting notes, contact Heidi heckerson@flls.org.

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AWARDS & GRANTS



OMG! It's that time again! Do you have an idea for an outreach project but lack funding? Member libraries in our service area can apply for an Outreach Mini-Grant!

Applications are **NOW OPEN** for the 2023-2024 grant cycle. \$15,000 is available!
All applications are due March 24, 2023. Visit the [Outreach Services](#) page to download an application, view the FAQs and Tips, or learn about previous projects.

Have a question? Stuck on an idea? Email Jenny Shonk at jshonk@flls.org.

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities

will offer more than \$7 million in grants to small and rural libraries to increase the accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities. ALA is now accepting applications through February 28 for grants to be distributed over the next three years ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Visit ala.org/LTCAccess to learn more.

ALA also recently re-opened the [Peggy Barber Tribute Grant](#), which aims to help ease library budget challenges by awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort!



Check <http://librarygrants.blogspot.com/> frequently for more grant announcements or subscribe to have new blog posts sent to your email!

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