



## MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

No. 23.10

Friday, June 30, 2023

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Best wishes on your retirement, Rex!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Staff Vacations:** Deb is on vacation from June 26 to July 11. Jenny is on vacation July 3 & July 6-7. Not sure who to contact? Visit the [Staff Directory webpage](#) and click on the *FLLS Services Contacts Cheat Sheet*!

### LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[Freedom to Read Statement Reissued on Its 70th Anniversary](#)

[Call For NYLA 2023 Annual Awards Nominations](#) (Due July 7)



[Data Storytelling for Libraries](#)

[Don't Ignore Quiet Quitting](#)

[NYLA: Tales From the Youth Services Librarian](#)

[Free For All: New Yorkers for Intellectual Freedom](#)

[Express Yourself: How Libraries are Making Communities More Creative](#)

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Here are some updates for you over the last few weeks:

**First Amendment Audits** – On Wednesday, one of our libraries had a person visit the library who identified themselves as an “independent journalist”. After speaking with library staff and the director, the person then told the director that he had completed a First Amendment audit of the library. If you are not familiar with First Amendment audits, they are conducted by individuals with video cameras, who proclaim themselves “auditors” and enter public buildings, like county office buildings, police precincts and libraries, to record alleged Constitutional violations. They then typically upload the recording to their YouTube channel.



The Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association has some great, basic information about First Amendment audits [here](#). Stephanie Cole Adams also did a webinar on this topic last year called *Libraries and First Amendment Audits*. To view the recording and slides of her webinar, visit [www.wnylrc.org/resources](http://www.wnylrc.org/resources) and scroll down to “Past Ask the Lawyer Recordings”. On Thursday of this week I sent out templates and handouts from this webinar to our directors as a refresher.

While First Amendment audits typically do not occur in our service area, this is a great reminder for our libraries to be prepared. Directors and trustees should familiarize themselves with their current policies, especially around filming in your library, and see if you need to do any revisions. Please reach out to me or Heidi at FLLS with any questions or for help reviewing your policies.

**Rex’s Retirement** – After working for FLLS for over 28 ½ years, Rex Helwig is retiring on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. As Head of Computer Network Services, Rex has guided FLLS and our member libraries on a variety of computer and library catalog services over the years. From migrating to Polaris, our library catalog, years ago to helping our libraries secure new Meraki routers last summer with an ARPA grant, he has certainly witnessed technology transform our libraries over the decades. I know I speak for all of staff, member libraries, and trustees in wishing Rex a very happy and enjoyable retirement!

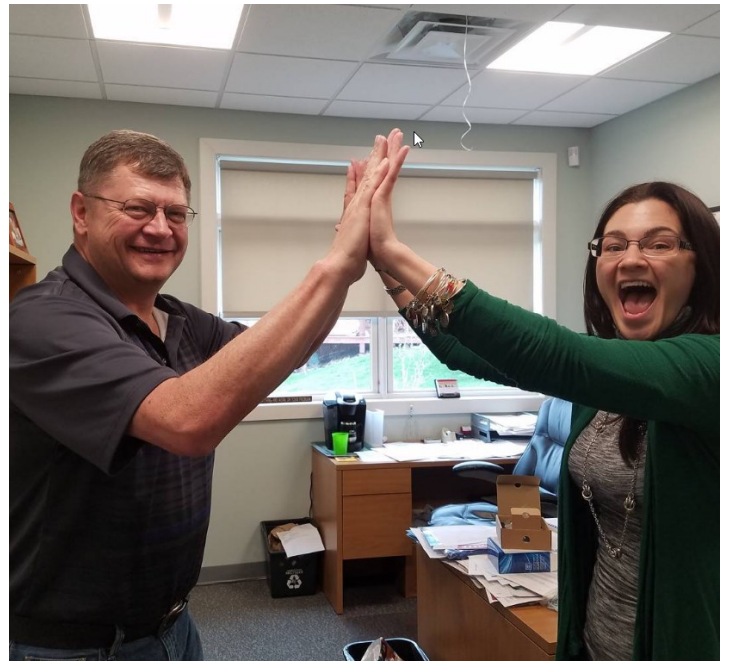
Over the last few months, the Board of Trustees and I have been reviewing the Computer Network Services job description and updating it to prepare for his retirement. A job posting will be going out in the beginning of July for this position.

**July 4 Closure** – A reminder that Finger Lakes Library System will be closed on Tuesday, July 4. There will be no deliveries that day. On Wednesday, July 5, the FLLS delivery schedule will be modified. On July 5, we will do deliveries on the South Route. All libraries on the South Route will receive a delivery.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe Fourth of July!  
Sarah



## Best wishes on your retirement, Rex!







# MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

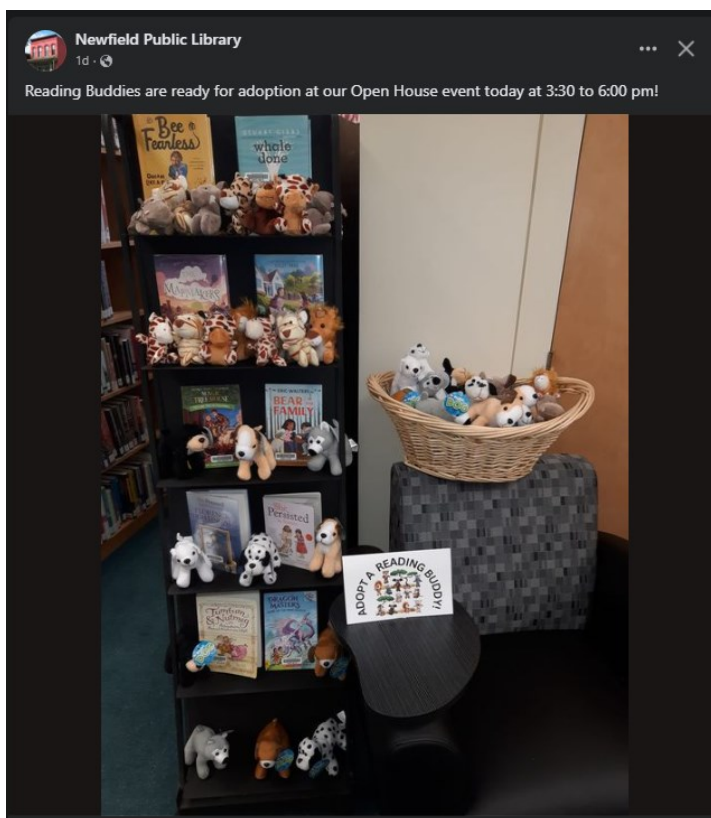
Do you have something to share? Please email [jshonk@flls.org](mailto:jshonk@flls.org)!



## Sensory Kits at Weedsport!

Crystal Batson, Assistant Director of the Weedsport Free Library, recently met with the occupational therapist at their local school to get advice about what to include in the sensory kits. She showed Crystal examples of some of the tools and toys she uses with children in her classroom. The items for the kits were purchased on Amazon. The descriptions of the items included in the kits all have language about using the products to help people stay calm, focused, relaxed, relieve anxiety, etc.

One kit will be processed and be available to check out and one kit will be for library use only.





# SCAM ALERT!

## Stolen Credentials Are the No. 1 Root Cause of Data Breaches

Verizon's DBIR always has a lot of information to unpack, so I'll continue my review by covering how stolen credentials play a role in attacks.

This year's Data Breach Investigations Report has nearly 1 million incidents in their data set, making it the most statistically relevant set of report data anywhere.

So, what does the report say about the most common threat actions that are involved in data breaches? Overall, the use of stolen credentials is the overwhelming leader in data breaches, being involved in nearly 45% of breaches – this is more than double the second-place spot of "Other" (which includes a number of types of threat actions) and ransomware, which sits at around 20% of data breaches.

According to Verizon, stolen credentials were the "most popular entry point for breaches." As an example, in Basic Web Application Attacks, the use of stolen credentials was involved in 86% of attacks. The prevalence of credential use should come as no surprise, given the number of attacks that have focused on harvesting online credentials to provide access to both cloud platforms and on-premises networks alike.

And it's the social engineering attacks (whether via phish, vish, SMiSh, or web) where these credentials are compromised — something that can be significantly diminished by engaging users in security awareness training to familiarize them with common techniques and examples of attacks, so when they come across an attack set on stealing credentials, the user avoids becoming a victim.

**Blog post with links:**

<https://blog.knowbe4.com/stolen-credentials-top-breach-threat>





# CONTINUING EDUCATION

## Upcoming Webinars

### [Designing for Diversity in Your Library's Communications](#) (WebJunction)

**Thursday, July 13, 3:00 pm**

Being intentional and inclusive in the design of your library's communications, in both physical and digital library spaces, can support and enrich your library's accessibility, diversity, and equity. The graphics, language, or format selected for communications provide an opportunity to create more welcoming spaces which reflect and represent your community's diversity, including—but not limited to—race, gender, or neurodiversity. Explore the importance of inclusion and representation in design and take a fresh look at how your library's signage, marketing materials, and online communication can contribute to a sense of belonging for all.

### [Sign, Baby, Sign! with Kathy MacMillan](#) (FLLS)

**Wednesday August 30, 10:00am**

Babies can sign long before they can speak, and research shows that using American Sign Language with both hearing and deaf babies imparts language benefits that can last a lifetime. Learn the benefits of using signs with babies and toddlers, as well as ways to incorporate signs into your program and educate parents. Participants will leave with a basic vocabulary of signs to use right away. Kathy MacMillan is a nationally certified American Sign Language interpreter, librarian, and storyteller. She is the author of the *Little Hands Signing* series from Familius Press, *Little Hands and Big Hands: Children and Adults Signing Together* (Hands Up Press), the co-author of the bestselling *Storytime Magic* series (ALA Editions), and the creator of many other books for children, teens, librarians, and educators. She presents interactive programs and workshops to share American Sign Language with everyone. Find out more at [StoriesByHand.com](http://StoriesByHand.com).

## LOOKING FOR MORE?

- ⇒ [CLRC](#)
- ⇒ [METRO](#)
- ⇒ [SCRLC](#)
- ⇒ [WebJunction](#)
- ⇒ [Libby Webinars from OverDrive](#)

## Conferences & Special Programs



Trustee Handbook Book Club

The Trustee Handbook Book Club is back! See more information and the full roster of sessions [here](#)! Some of the upcoming sessions include:

- **Strategic Planning** (Tuesday, August 15, 2023 | 5:00-6:30pm) [REGISTER](#)
- **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access & Justice** (Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 5:00-6:30pm) [REGISTER](#)

All those who attend a live session will receive a certificate of attendance and a follow up message with a recording of the session. All sessions will be recorded and archived on [the landing page for the series](#).



### **MUST WATCH Recording** **from Programming Librarian:** [Preparing for Program Challenges at your Public Library](#)

Are you unsure how to handle a program challenge in your library? Do you worry about having the right policies and procedures in place? Two public library directors will share their personal experiences with intellectual freedom challenges of programs. Learn best practices and strategies for supporting staff, board, and community members through program challenges. Resources to assist in responding to challenges and crafting appropriate policies, procedures,

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# PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

## Digital Collection News

**OverDrive's Summer Big Library Read** starts July 13—just in time for summer reading! This season's pick is **A Very Typical Family** by Sierra Godfrey. BLR lets patrons with a valid library card to read the same digital title at the same time without any wait lists or holds. Participating in this event allows your library to offer a new simultaneous use title for community-wide access from your library at no cost. [Click here](#) for more info and marketing materials.

## Summer Reading Resources:

Just some good links to have handy!

- See what's happening this Summer around the System: [Summer Fun Starts at Your Library](#)
- [Summer Reading at New York Libraries](#)
- The first-ever NLS Summer Reading Program! [National Library Services for the Blind and Print Disabled Summer Reading Program](#)

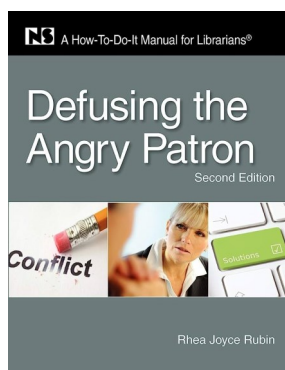


## Reminders:

- The Museum Pass Kits featuring the Museum of the Earth/Cayuga Nature Center will be weeded on June 30, 2023. The pass expires and FLLS will not be renewing them. Interested libraries can renew/purchase their own passes through PRI's Library Access Program. The contact is Amanda Schmitt Piha [ads282@cornell.edu](mailto:ads282@cornell.edu).
- The Community Foundation of Tompkins County Library Cycle Grant is funding many Summer Reading activities. Grant recognition is part of the agreement you signed when accepting the funds. Please be sure to acknowledge the grantor in your marketing, etc. Attribution should be in the form of: "<NAME OF FUND> of the Community Foundation of Tompkins County"
- Also, the Community Foundation is migrating to a new grant software. More details in an upcoming newsletter.

## Featured Professional Collection Books

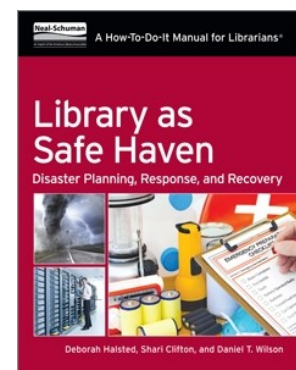
Search Polaris and place a request today!



A20517342149



A20519091299



A20519427440

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# AWARDS & GRANTS

## ALA Thinking Money for Kids Program Kits



We all need to master the knowledge and skills to make smart financial choices and prepare for whatever the future brings. [Thinking Money for Kids](#), an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, strives to teach children and their parents, caregivers and educators about financial topics — like saving, spending, sharing and budgeting — in a way that is both meaningful and fun.

ALA and the FINRA Foundation invite public libraries to apply to receive a **Thinking Money for Kids Program Kit**, a collection of expertly vetted resources to help libraries offer financial education for children ages 3 to 12, both in the library and in children's homes.

Approximately 200 public libraries will be selected to receive a Thinking Money for Kids Program Kit (estimated kit value: \$2,000). Libraries will keep all kit contents after the grant period ends. Each selected library will receive the following:

- All materials needed to host five different in-person children's programs — such as ready-to-use games, props and other physical materials — for children ages 3 to 12.
- A set of Playaway Launchpad tablets pre-loaded with digital content that aligns with the in-person program offerings.
- Program instructions, talking points, related book lists and other resources to assist library workers in planning and hosting the in-person programs.
- Template promotional materials and digital graphics to assist library workers with marketing the programs and Launchpad tablets to the public.
- Access to virtual training and a community of practice.

**ALA will accept online applications for this opportunity from June 15 to September 8, 2023.** The programming period will run from September 2024 through December 2025. See important links below:

- [Apply online via our grants management platform](#)
- [View a PDF of the grant application](#)
- [Project guidelines](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)