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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming FLLS Staff Out-of-Office: Sarah—10/31; Heidi—11/6-11/7, 11/11, 11/26; Wayne—11/11.

FLLS will be closed on Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28.

★ **Not sure who to contact? View the [FLLS Services Contacts Cheat Sheet!](#)**

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[2025 Public Library Services for Strong Communities Survey – Now Open!](#)

[New York's Biggest ICE Detention Center Bans Book Deliveries](#)

[A quirky de-escalation tool](#)

[Librarians are sharing the most unhinged promotional videos and people can't get enough](#)

[The Next Generation of Activists: Advocacy program trains young people to lead](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Here are some October updates:

FLLS Annual Meeting – We held our 67th Annual Meeting on Friday, October 17 at the Center for the Arts in Homer, NY. Thank you to the almost 100 library trustees, directors and staff who were able to join us for such a terrific meeting and talk. Our morning started with a business meeting of our membership, during which trustees were elected/re-elected, and our membership ratified a FLLS Bylaws addition. This addition to our bylaws created a board member Treasurer position on our board, as opposed to our past practice of hiring an outside Treasurer. The FLLS board had approved the bylaws change earlier in 2025 and Board member Martin Toombs is currently acting as our Treasurer.



Our guest speaker this year was Dr. Audrey Barbakoff. Dr. Barbakoff is passionate about helping organizations build capacity for collaboration and equity by centering their communities. Her newest book, ***The 12 Steps to a Community-Led Library***, is co-authored with Noah Lenstra. FLLS has led book discussion groups with our member libraries on Audrey's book and will be hosting a trustee book group session soon.

Please make sure to check out www.flls.org/about-us/ for our *2024 Annual Report to the Community*, which uses statistical data from Annual Reports and the *2025 Annual Meeting Summary*, which is a narrative snapshot of the current year at FLLS. A big thank you to Jenny Shonk from FLLS for creating these documents for us!

Baker & Taylor – Many of you may be aware of the closing of Baker & Taylor, a major book purchasing source for public libraries. We have been sending information to our directors and library staff on other purchasing options, such as Ingram, Brodart, and Amazon, and will continue to offer opportunities for our members as we learn more.

In addition to book ordering, Baker & Taylor also own the software CollectConnect, which is the platform used to collect and aggregate annual report data for New York State's public and association libraries and all types of library systems, in addition to other data. No new reports will be created on the Baker & Taylor platform. CollectConnect will be taken offline after December 15, 2025 and all associated data will be gone.

The NYSL Division of Library Development (DLD) is exploring alternative platforms for future use and will share additional information as it is available. DLD will save necessary data, instructions and blank surveys from the current platform but strongly recommends that libraries save all relevant member library data if it has not been saved already.

Please download and save any report data that would be useful going forward **by December 1, 2025**.

While we don't know what the 2025 NY State Annual Report will look like due to this, please know that we will be providing information as soon as we receive it from the State Library. Jenny will be offering ample educational opportunities and support during the months of January and February. Our goal is to have this be as seamless as possible for all of our members.

Thank you for your understanding on this,
Sarah



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

FLLS Annual Meeting

Thank you for joining us at our 67th Annual Meeting on Friday, October 17 at the Homer Center for the Arts!



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

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upcoming Webinars

[Embracing Slow Library Management: Reflections On Leading With Care \(METRO\)](#)

Monday, October 27 | 1:00-2:00pm | Online via Zoom

Drawing on research and frameworks from scholars across disciplines, including Tricia Hersey and Meredith Farkas, this workshop from Alyssa Brissett, Head of Reference at Bobst Library, New York University, will address how slow librarianship principles can be applied to library management.

Learn practical strategies for effective management, leading with care, and integrating slow librarianship principles into the day-to-day work of library management. The workshop will lead with examples from a department head navigating managing multiple aspects of a large library service under established organizational goals, incorporating self-reflection exercises to gain clarity on feelings of complicity, and performativity, and challenging traditional expectations of a library manager.

[Edi & Neal's Book Club: Library Leadership Stories \(ALA\)](#)

Thursday, November 13 | 3:00-4:30pm | Online via Zoom

Join us for a major morale boost: Seven library leaders from diverse backgrounds will share stories of seminal experiences in library leadership and provide takeaways that any library worker can apply to their professional lives. A moderated Q&A between the storytelling presenters and the audience will follow the last presentation for this estimated 90-minute program. Presenting experts include:

- Barbara A. Alvarez, author of *The Library's Guide to Sexual and Reproductive Health Information*
- Diana Haneski and Dione Mila, co-authors of *From Learners to Leaders: Empowering Student Volunteers in the School Library*
- Maha Kumaran and Beth McNeil, co-authors of *Leading in Libraries: Perspectives from Lived Experiences*
- Lucas Maxwell, author of *Let's Roll: A Guide to Setting up Table-Top Role Playing Games in your School or Public Library* and *Roll for Adventure: Tabletop Roleplaying Adventures for Your School or Public Library*
- Delandrus Lenet leashea Seales, author of *Leveraging AI in School Libraries: From Basics to Best Practices*

The Library Freedom Project's privacy and intellectual freedom training for library workers is now open for applications!

Library Freedom Institute covers a wide range of highly relevant and engaging subjects in the privacy, intellectual freedom, and critical technology realm. The 2026 Institute will take place over 15 weeks (starting in late January), consisting of a two-hour virtual meeting every week, as well as an in-person weekend component. Participants will also spend time each week working on readings and group discussion. After LFI has completed, participants are invited to join the LFP community of practice, a one-of-a-kind space for library workers to continue collaborating in a supportive environment.



[Application questions, requirements, and FAQ are available here.](#)

Applications are due **December 10**, please email institute@libraryfreedom.org with any questions.

LFI is made possible in part through generous support from the Mellon Foundation, the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, and the Calyx Institute.

POLARIS TIP

Item Maintenance DOs & DON'Ts

- **DON'T** enter the initial articles A, An, or The into the Quick Bib title – this causes the title to be displayed in a browse search under the initial article instead of the first significant word.
- **DO** enter the author last name first. Enter in only one author name. If there is only an editor, enter the name. If there is no author or editor, enter “none” (without quotation marks). Video recordings do not require an author to be entered.
- Use only the Quick Bib template that matches the format (book, audio book, music, or video) of the item you want to add. There are no Quick Bib templates available for multimedia and electronic resources – if there is a demand for them, they will be created.
- Be sure to use the correct format. For example, do not use the AUDIO BOOK format for music – use MUSIC RECORDING.
- **DON'T** try to enter other extraneous bibliographic information into the Quick Bib. It is unnecessary and will get overwritten by the final bibliographic record.
- Make sure to scan the correct barcode. Various retail stores may place their own barcode sticker on a DVD case over the real barcode, you will want to scan the original barcode underneath.
- If you get lost or don't know what's going on when creating a Quick Bib, simply close out the function and respond to the prompt “You have made changes to this record. Do you want to save the changes?” by clicking on the **No** button.
- **DO** add your item to a Quick Bib or final bibliographic record – just make sure the ISBN and UPC numbers in the Bib match your item in hand.
- As you file your Quick Bib you will be prompted to accept the author entered via the **Check Headings Assistant** – just click on **Continue Saving**. You should not see any more prompts to continue, and you will see the “Record status” of “Final”. If you do receive another prompt after the initial one, please exit from the record you are creating, and start over.
- If a **Replace/Check for Duplicates** block pops up, exit and don't save the record.

Handouts and videos are available on the FLLS website:
[Polaris Documentation Webpage](#)

PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

Youth Services



NYSL Youth Services Basics Course



New York State

Library

The New York State Library has developed a free course for Youth Services staff.

- Fully asynchronous, self-paced course on Moodle
- Course is an introduction (or refresher) for library staff working with youth
- Participants can earn a certificate for each session they complete.

Learn more at [Literacy at NY Libraries](#) and register here: [Youth Services Basics Course registration form](#).

Library staff should be aware that it may take a couple of days from the time they register until they receive an email about their Moodle account being set up. Once their Moodle account is active they can login to access the course.

If you have any questions you can email nyslyouth@nysed.gov



Summer Programming News



The CSLP 2026 online manual code and link to the CSLP Shop was emailed out to libraries on Thursday, October 16th.

CSLP no longer offers flash drives with the manual content. They have also discontinued the print version of their product catalog. We have two copies of the print manual on order and will let you know when it's available to borrow.



eContent



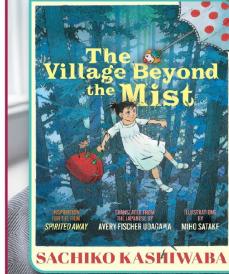
The next Libby Reads (f.k.a. Big Library Read) is coming up on November 18th. The featured title, *The Village Beyond the Mist*, by Sachiko Kashiwaba will be available for simultaneous use. This means no holds or waiting, making it the perfect choice for a book club.

Find [marketing materials](#) and more info at <https://www.biglibraryread.com/current-title/>

Also coming in November:

Watch for the FLLS OverDrive Contribution memo in your email. This email explains how OverDrive is funded and how items are selected. Your library's contribution helps us curate a solid digital collection for the entire system. Learn more at our November FALCONS meeting.

**Libby
READS**
November 18 - December 2



The Village Beyond the Mist
TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE BY ALEXIS FISHER UOMANDI
ILLUSTRATING MIHO SATO

SACHIKO KASHIWABA

A delightful, cozy, and whimsical story of meeting new people, enjoying the simple things in life, and showing kindness. Its otherworldly liminal space, odd inhabitants, and curious magic shows why this book inspired the film *Spirited Away*.

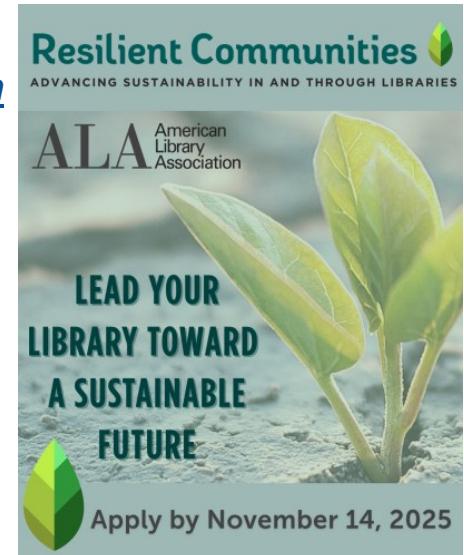
— Youth Services Book Review



AWARDS & GRANTS

Apply Now: Resilient Communities: Advancing Sustainability in and through Libraries. ALA, in collaboration with the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#) (SLI), is launching [Resilient Communities: Advancing Sustainability in and through Libraries](#), a new initiative designed to equip public library workers with the knowledge and tools to lead on sustainability.

Through this program, 100 library workers will receive free tuition to complete *Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices*, a four-part asynchronous e-course, and join a community of practice with peers and advisors. By modeling sustainable practices within their facilities and communities, participating libraries will strengthen their role as leaders in building a more resilient future.



Applications are now open through November 14, 2025, with accepted participants notified by December 5, 2025. [Learn more and apply here!](#)

Penguin Random House and United for Libraries announced a 2026 grant program serving rural and small libraries across the country. Grants of \$500 and \$1,000 (totaling \$25,000), will be awarded to support libraries in need. Specifically, grant funds will assist Friends of Library groups, or nonprofit groups that support and fundraise for libraries in their communities, with priority projects. In-kind book donation grants of \$500 will also be awarded to 20 libraries to purchase Penguin Random House titles. [Learn more about the grants here.](#)

Grants will be administered by [United for Libraries](#): The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, whose mission is to support those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for all types of libraries. Grant funding is provided by Penguin Random House.

Applications for the program will be open from Dec. 17, 2025-Jan. 21, 2026, and applicants will be notified by March 30, 2026. United for Libraries will present free virtual informational sessions beginning in December; [learn more and register](#).

In addition to a grant of \$500 or \$1,000, or a book donation grant, recipients will also receive complimentary eLearning from United for Libraries, including a year of access to [United for Libraries Learning Live](#) monthly webinars which present in-depth training to library Trustees/Board Members, Friends, Foundations, advocates, and those who work with them, and training on how to leverage the grant funds to build support for the library and the Friends group. Recipients will also receive complimentary registration for Friends of the Library Day of the United for Libraries virtual conference (July 30, 2026) and the Friends virtual retreat (spring 2027).