

## **Director's Report September 23, 2026**

**Sarah Glogowski, Executive Director**

reporting July 15, 2026 – September 17, 2026

**Federal Updates** – E-rate remains a federal advocacy issue. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has opened a proceeding that could significantly reshape, narrow, or potentially end the program, which helps schools and public libraries afford broadband and internal network connections. For FLLS and our member libraries, particularly small and rural libraries with limited local resources, the loss or reduction of E-rate support would create serious budget issues.

The American Library Association (ALA) has launched a national advocacy campaign to protect E-rate. ALA is encouraging libraries and supporters to submit comments to the FCC, contact members of Congress, and share local examples of how E-rate sustains essential connectivity. The FCC public-comment deadline is October 13.

**State Updates** – FLLS is participating in a statewide advocacy effort with our other 22 public library systems by writing to the Governor's regional staff about the essential role of libraries. Our service area falls under 3 different regions in which the Governor has offices, so we needed to write 3 letters. Our letters emphasize that FLLS serves 33 individual libraries across our five counties, many of them small and rural. It highlights how libraries help residents navigate government and health services, avoid online scams, understand artificial intelligence, find employment, support children's literacy, and stay connected to their communities. The letter also stresses that libraries are trusted public infrastructure and asks the Governor's staff to support strong, sustained State Aid for Libraries in the upcoming budget.

**NYALS Symposium** – FLLS and the South Central Regional Library Council hosted the New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS) Symposium in Ithaca on July 28 and July 29. Our highlighted speaker was Lisa Varga from ALA, who led an advocacy workshop that gave attendees practical strategies for strengthening relationships with elected officials, communicating clear and consistent messages, and pairing statewide priorities with local stories. The program was especially useful as library systems prepare for the next state budget and advocacy season.

Thanks to Diana, symposium attendees enjoyed a private dinner at the Boatyard Grill on Tuesday evening, which was extremely successful. Attendees repeatedly expressed their appreciation that the FLLS Board supplemented the cost of the symposium, helping keep the event affordable to NYALS members. Thank you for supporting this valuable opportunity for statewide learning, collaboration, and advocacy.

**Tompkins County Budget Presentation** - On Wednesday, September 2, I presented our 2027 request for flat funding to the Tompkins County Legislature on behalf of FLLS and the county's five rural libraries. I presented with Laura Lusk, Director of the Southworth Library in Dryden. Legislators appreciated the hard work of our libraries and were impressed by circulation, cardholders, and library visits. They remarked that it was clear we love serving our communities. At Legislator Randy Brown's request, I provided follow-up information showing what percentage of each library's budget comes from Tompkins County funding. Based on the positive response, I do not anticipate cuts to our county funding.

### **Sarah's Meetings**

July 16 – State Library PULISDO Meeting  
July 16 – Tompkins County Public Library Friends Board Meeting  
July 20 – Apalachin Construction Project Visit  
July 21 – Trustee Training at the Cady Library (Nichols)  
July 22 – Meeting with TCPL Director  
July 23 – SCRLC Finance Committee Meeting  
July 23 – NYALS Conference Meeting  
July 23 – Phone Interviews for ILS position  
July 24 – SCRLC Board of Trustees Meeting  
July 24 – Phone Interviews for ILS position  
July 27 – Phone Interviews for ILS position  
July 28 – July 29 – NYALS Symposium and PULISDO meetings  
July 30 – Interlaken Construction Visit  
July 31 – ILS Administrator In-person Interview  
August 3 – Peck Memorial Library (Marathon) Construction Visit  
August 3 – ILS Administrator In-person Interview  
August 6 – ILS Administrator In-person Interview  
August 10 – August 14 – Vacation  
August 18 – SCRLC Audit  
August 20 – FALCONS Meeting  
August 25 – NYALS Meeting  
September 1 – FLLS Staff Meeting  
September 2 – Tompkins County Budget Presentation  
September 8 – NYALS Steering Committee Monthly Meeting  
September 8 – PULISDO Monthly Meeting  
September 9 – FLLS Personnel Committee Meeting  
September 10 – FLLS Directors' Meeting  
September 11 – Vacation Day  
September 14 – COSAC Meeting  
September 14 – SCRLC Digital Equity Meeting  
September 15 – Lodi Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 16 – Sarah/Stevan Meeting  
September 17 – State Library PULISDO Meeting

### **Deb Geier, Technical Services Librarian**

***July & August, 2026 (and some June data that wasn't available at the time)***

#### **Cataloging:**

- **During the month of July**, I edited and imported 2378 bibliographic records.
- **During the month of August**, I edited and imported 2013 bibliographic records.

#### **Interlibrary loan for June 2026:**

- Items circulated: 14757. Year to date: 92106
- Total requests submitted: 14824. Year to date: 92653
- Percentage filled: 99.5. Year to date: 99.4

#### **Out-of-system interlibrary loan for June 2026:**

- Items borrowed/copied: 444. Year to date: 3128
- Items loaned/copied: 248. Year to date: 1379

***Deb Geier, cont.***

**Interlibrary loan for July 2026:**

- Items circulated: 15150. Year to date: 107256
- Total requests submitted: 15246. Year to date: 107899
- Percentage filled: 99.4. Year to date: 99.4

**Out-of-system interlibrary loan for July 2026:**

- Items borrowed/copied: 602. Year to date: 3730
- Items loaned/copied: 181. Year to date: 1560

**Interlibrary loan for August 2026:**

- Items circulated: 15011. Year to date: 122267
- Total requests submitted: 15097. Year to date: 122996
- Percentage filled: 99.4. Year to date: 99.4

**Out-of-system interlibrary loan for August 2026:**

- Items borrowed/copied: 502. Year to date: 4232
- Items loaned/copied: 199. Year to date: 1759

**Meetings:**

- July 9: Directors' meeting
- August 13: Resource Sharing Advisory Committee meeting
- August 20: FALCONS meeting

**Jenny Shonk, Education and Outreach Librarian**

***July & August 2026***

- **Collection Development:** Processed new books for the professional collection. Placed an OverDrive order with CLSA funds. Researched databases to be purchased with CLSA funds including New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Consumer Reports.
- **Continuing Education (CE):** Updated the Polaris Leap handouts after the Polaris Upgrade and held 2 Polaris Leap webinars for 23 attendees total. Processed books for the System-Wide Community Read (*Meet Me at the Library* by Shamichael Hallman) and distributed to libraries. Scheduled Community Read sessions to be facilitated by Mike Bishop and announced to member libraries. Attended meeting to discuss statewide Gather & Grow virtual conference. Held the Book Repair workshop at the system with 11 attendees. Assisted Heidi with the Policy Palooza workshop at the system with 28 attendees. Secured presenters for an upcoming workshop.
- **Correctional Facilities & County Jails:** Placed 12 orders for Five Points CF, Tioga Jail, Tompkins Jail, Cortland Jail, and Seneca Jail. Scheduled and packed for 8 deliveries for Auburn CF and Five Points CF.
- **Outreach:** Provided audiobooks to a Talking Book & Braille Library patron. Ordered Aunt Flow period products and distributed to 8 libraries that applied for the mini-grant. Asked member libraries to participate in the Great Give Back. Prepared for the COSAC meeting and reviewed Outreach Mini-Grant final reports.
- **Professional Development:** Attended the virtual ThriveLib conference. Attended AI webinar from Mid-Hudson Library System. Attended NYSL Minimum Standards webinar.
- **Reference and Consulting:** Answered 29 consulting questions for member libraries and correctional facilities with a focus on Polaris and incarcerated individual reference.
- **Miscellaneous Meetings:** Hosted and took notes for the July Member Library Support Group meeting with 7 attendees. Attended the NYS Outreach meeting. Attended the FALCONS meeting.
- **Miscellaneous Tasks:** Organized content for the monthly bulletin. Visited libraries for construction visits with Sarah. Picked up and distributed donated media from WSKG.

## **Heidi Eckerson, Member Services Librarian**

**July 2026**

### **Digital Collection**

Curated digital book displays in Libby; promoted the Libby Reads free digital book club title “I see You Called in Dead”; selected, purchased, and promoted OverDrive content; ran reports for OverDrive Reciprocal Lending Agreement partners and Finger Lakes Library System members.

### **Continuing Education**

- Crafting an AI Policy for Your Library (Mid-Hudson Library System)
- Minimum Standards for Public Libraries Series: Public Use of Library Spaces and Meeting Rooms (NYSL)
- Book Repair Workshop (in-person at FLLS)
- Library Vendor Negotiations (CLRC)

### **Other Meetings**

- Seneca Shares
- FLLS Directors’ Mtg
- FLLS Plan of Service
- IMLS October Science Fair planning sessions with Sciencenter & TCPL

### **Member Libraries**

- Provided consultation to members on a variety of topics
- Provided content for Finger Lakes Library System Monthly Bulletin
- Shared relevant webinar and programming opportunities via listservs (i.e. free Captain Goggles book donation about water safety)

### **Summer Reading/Youth Services**

- Preparing Summer Reading Evaluation survey to send out in August

### **Special Projects**

- Contacted FLLS Annual Meeting Speaker and coordinated speaker agreement
- Participated in all in-person interviews with ILS Administrator candidates
- Continue to plan in person Policy workshop for directors and trustees (tentative date is August 12)
- Planning Science Fair and Program Share event (tentative date is October)
- Developing a Trustee track program, “The Library Director and Board President Relationship” for Gather and Grow series coming up on December 4

### **Trustees**

Distributed July-August Trustee Newsletter. (Now using Outlook Newsletters instead of Canva)

## **Heidi Eckerson, August 2026**

### **Digital Collection**

Curated digital book displays in Libby; selected, purchased, and promoted OverDrive content; ran reports for OverDrive Reciprocal Lending Agreement partners and Finger Lakes Library System members.

We are excited to welcome the Four County Library System into our OverDrive Reciprocal Lending Partnership. (This is an inter-library loan of our digital collection. Currently we partner with the OWWL Library System and the Southern Tier Library System. As of Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, 1574 unique FLLS users have borrowed 11,400 items from our partners so far this year.)

### **Continuing Education**

- Minimum Standards for Public Libraries Series: Public Use of Library Spaces and Meeting Rooms (NYSL)

***Heidi Eckerson, August 2026, cont.***

**Other Meetings**

- Seneca Shares
- Onsite visit to the Durland Alternatives Library on the Cornell Campus
- Member Library Support Group
- Reciprocal Lending Arrangement Update mtg with OverDrive
- NYS eBook Working Group
- FALCONS (e-content updates shared at this meeting)
- FLLS Librarians mtg
- IMLS October Science Fair planning sessions with Sciencenter & TCPL

**Member Libraries**

- Provided consultation to members on a variety of topics
- Provided content for Finger Lakes Library System Monthly Bulletin
- Shared relevant updates, including webinar and programming opportunities via listservs

**Summer Reading/Youth Services**

- Sent out Summer Reading Evaluation survey to member libraries. (I collect this data and share it with the NYS Library.)

**Special Projects**

- Participated in all in-person interviews with ILS Administrator candidates
- Hosted Policy Palooza, an in-person policy audit and compliance check workshop. We welcomed 28 directors and trustees from 19 member libraries.
- Posted Library Director and Trustee LibGuides on FLLS website. The LibGuides are a way to manage the large amount of information on topics we frequently get questions about. I continue to edit and update them.

**Trustees**

- Working on September-October Newsletter content