

Merribeth Advocate, Outreach and Education Coordinator

1. Summer Reading Program Mini-Grants: Each year MHLS uses federal LSTA funds, received from the NYS Library Division of Library Development for "Summer Reading at New York Libraries" to expand the programs and services in member libraries during the summer. 2012 funds will be mini-granted to libraries for programs that will increase participation in "Summer Reading at New York Libraries" AND foster school/library collaboration in support of "Summer Reading at New York Libraries". Libraries who submit applications that are rated successful by MHLS will each receive \$300-\$500. Each application will be scored using a standardized rubric. Applications will be ranked for funding based on their score. Applications must be received by April 11. Libraries will be notified by April 18. Final reports will be due to MHLS on September 14.
2. SEAL: How important is it to your library to have access to the materials outside of Millennium through SEAL (the 'Gateway to Library Catalogs in Southern New York' at <http://othello.senylrc.org/vdx/> If SEAL was no longer available through SENYLRC how would you want to proceed?
3. Hudson Valley Connections: We are in the process of updating this regional resource guide for ex-offenders. If you have suggestions about what to include, please let me know.
4. New Director at Hudson Correctional Facility: Judy Doyle - she was previously working for the New York State Library in the ILL Department, and director at Green Haven Correctional Facility prior to that.
5. Study of Information Infrastructure: The 3R's (Reference and Research Library Resources Systems - including SENYLRC) statewide have pooled funds and are spearheading a study of the information infrastructure in NY State, primarily targeted to academics, but there could be interesting results for us as well.
6. Youth Services Workshop in the Fall: Acting upon request from member library Youth Services providers, in the fall the Parent and Family Educator from the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Dutchess County will be providing a workshop in the Auditorium on dealing with youth proactively, including encouraging and managing appropriate behavior in the library for different ages and stages. Date TBA.

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Growth & Sustainability

1. Legislative Update:

- Thank you to all who attended Advocacy Day in person and virtually.
- The Senate has come out in support of the 4% restoration. At the time of this report the Assembly was only proposing a 1.5% restoration so there is negotiating to be done. We will probably see a finished budget by April 1st so be sure to use the NYLA Online Advocacy Center to send the current message which encourages the Assembly and Governor to match the Senate's proposal for the 4% restoration.
- Highly likely we will see the MTA Payroll Tax completely repealed for libraries.

2. Libraries with Votes this Year: On Wednesday, May 2 @MHLS I will do a workshop designed to help you win your vote called the Public Library Vote Toolbox: "Know-how for your library's vote." I will include a section on explaining the tax cap to the public. Don't leave your vote outcome to chance; it's never too early to start strategizing.

3. Construction Grant Program:

- No word yet on the 2011-2012 Construction Awards yet.
- For the next round, if you would like to apply, consider the active Construction Needs Update Memo sent to you on March 20th mandatory. The memo is due April 20th.
- A Construction Grant workshop will be scheduled, most likely in June or July, once we know when the online application will be made live.
- The MHLS Board met and confirmed their priorities for the next round of Construction Grants.
 1. Project must be part of a long-range plan or a prioritized facility plan which is reported to MHLS through the Construction Needs Action Memo issued annually in March AND
 2. Provide for:
 - An increase in services, through an increase in usable public space or increased staff efficiencies;
 - An increase in access (e.g. handicapped accessibility) and/or
 - Energy conservation in the context of a professional's recommendations or with an historic preservation element. For the purposes of the board's

ranking a “professional’s recommendation” will, at least, include the results of an Energy Audit by the NYS Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA)

- The MHLS Board also met and defined what will constitute an “economically disadvantaged community” to comply with the new amendment to the regulations that will allow for a library serving an area that meets this criteria to be eligible for up to a 75% match rather than a 50% match. Application requests greater than 50% need to demonstrate how the project will address the service needs of one or more “economically disadvantaged communities”:

(1) a political subdivision within which 15 percent or more of the population is living in poverty as shown on the latest federal census.

(2) a public school district within which the percentage of student enrollment that is eligible for free and reduced lunch under the national school lunch program is 40 percent or more for at least one month during the twelve months prior to the date of filing of the grant application.

(3) a political subdivision as described in #1 within which 10 percent or more of the population is living in poverty and a public school district as described in #2 within which the percentage of student enrollment that is eligible for free and reduced lunch under the national school lunch program is 30 percent or more.

4. LSTA Grants

Building Your Base Online:

- 10 Things, the self-directed online learning series, will have wrapped up by the time of the DA meeting. This has been a good experience from my perspective and I will be interested to hear more from the participants in the evaluation process. I think the format suited the wide range of technological skills of the participants and allowed people the flexibility to learn about what they were most interested in.
- I would like to urge all directors to practice downloading ebooks and audiobooks from Overdrive personally. This was the biggest “eye opener” for many people in the program. Hands on experience with our online resources is critical for frontline staff, it makes all the difference to their comfort and confidence and therefore their ability to market these services.

- Tech Tools for Digital Storytelling & Library PR workshop with Polly Farrington: This is a hands-on workshop in our laptop lab on Friday, April 27th. There is a morning and afternoon session, you only need to attend one or the other. Register soon, seating is limited.
 - This grant is now expended. Through it we have established the laptop lab, developed a second generation web site for 36 member libraries, created an evaluation tool for libraries that manage their own web sites, provided a series of eleven hands-on workshops dedicated to bringing libraries up to speed with social media options, designed and implemented the first online training series in MHLS history, provided train-the-trainer workshops in downloading media from OverDrive and purchased software that will give us the capacity to provide webinars.
 - BYB: From the Inside Out: This grant application has been approved by the MHLS Board and submitted to the state.
5. Next Word-of-Mouth Marketing Project (WOMM) Topic: We will focus on Job Searching / Job Resources for the next quarter. Watch the Bulletin for more info and support materials.
6. Public Library Association (PLA) Conference:
- Handouts from many of the sessions are available at <http://placonference.org/programs>
 - I attended a number of good programs, a handful that focused on management issues such as difficult budget decisions and making sustainably strategic choices; a grassroots advocacy program [based in part on the work of The Ruckus Society: <http://www.ruckus.org/>] and two technology programs, one on iPads the other on the new Public Access Technology Benchmarks coming out soon called the Edge Benchmarks.
 - Check out http://www.libraryedge.org/filebin/pdf/ULC_EDGE_Framework_032212.pdf to get a look at the beta benchmarks.
 - What tools would be of assistance with assessment under these benchmarks? I've been asked to provide feedback on this to the working group and would appreciate your input.

Robert Drake, Information Technology Coordinator

Sam Info Meeting

Event Type: Technology

Date: 4/25/2012

Start Time: 10:00 AM

End Time: 12:00 PM

Description:

SAM Info Meeting – Information on Locally Hosted SAM

Presented by Robert Drake, MHLS IT Coordinator and a representative from Comprise

Target Audience: Library directors and staff involved in SAM decision-making in libraries where SAM is currently installed.

Libraries who do not currently have SAM, but are interested in implementing it are encouraged to attend as well.

Discussion will include:

- Benefits & costs of locally hosted SAM
- Opportunity to ask Comprise staff questions about locally hosted SAM

Database Updates

Searchasaurus: The link on Kidsport needed to be updated. Users accessing searchasaurus through kidsport should not longer have problems.

Heritage Quest: Some users were experiencing issues accessing parts heritage quest. A tweak to the WAM table appears to have resolved this problem. If anyone continues to have issues accessing Heritage Quest please contact myself or Eric McCarthy.

NextReads RSS Feed for library websites

More information to be provided at the DA

Eric McCarthy, Automation Coordinator

Millennium

- WAM Statistics: There is a new procedural document allowing you to download your Web Access Management statistics from Millennium. You can access this information from <http://gigcat.midhudson.org/manage>. Training will be organized, if necessary, to meet demand.
- I will be attending the IUG Conference in Chicago, ILL from 15 April through 18 April. I will be meeting with David Hemmingway Turner on the morning of 18 April to discuss our upgrade to Sierra and will have a full report at the next DA meeting.
- Enhancements for Millennium have been submitted to Ill. Thanks to The Resource Sharing Committee, Karen O'Brien, Kit Kassel and Robert Drake for input.
- Withdraw v. Discard: This depends on how you want to manage statistics in-house. Once a circulation transaction takes place, the statistic is counted. It doesn't matter if you use discard or delete the record. For your annual report, there is no reason to retain records. If you wish to use discard, this will allow you to track the number of items weeded over a given period. However, the record remains in the catalog, as status discard, and may cause patron confusion. Using discard (deleting the record entirely) is also the most efficient way to manage disk space.
- Millennium configuration has been reviewed.
- Millennium Resource Sharing documents have been reviewed.

Databases

- NextReads: Our local catalog holdings has been added to the NextReads database and will allow The Central Library to send lists that include a check for any member library ownership.