

**Consultant Reports
Directors Association Meeting - July 2011**

Merribeth Advocate, Outreach & Education Coordinator

1. **Local History Information:** Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey about local history / genealogy materials in your library. If you are interested in the results they are available at <http://midhudson.org/resource/millennium/history.xls>
2. **Hudson Valley Parents Magazine:** MJ Goff, the editor of the magazine, is encouraging libraries to post kids and family events (including storytime) on their website calendar at <http://www.hvparent.com>. In addition to this, they pull select events from their web calendar to highlight in their print magazine and on their Facebook page. Give her a call (845-562-3606) if you would like additional exposure in promoting a special event.
3. **Instruction Sheets for eBooks:** New instruction sheets have been added to our OverDrive information page at <http://midhudson.org/collection/overdrive.htm> by popular demand, including how to:
 - See just the eBooks that are checked in now
 - Checking out an eBook
 - Return an eBook before the loan period is over
4. **Audiotapes:** If you are weeding audiotapes in good condition from your library collection, they are of great interest to our correctional facility libraries as they are not able to use books on CD or downloadable audiobooks. These donations can make a difference by helping individuals with low literacy levels enjoy literature. If you bring them to a DA meeting (please do not use the delivery for donations) we will be pleased to pass them on. Thank you in advance for giving your audiotapes a second life and for helping to contribute to the recreation reading of many people.
5. **2012 Arts Project Grants for Dutchess & Ulster County Libraries:** Eve Madalengoitia, the Director of Programs & Art Services at Dutchess County Arts Council (845-454-3222) is encouraging libraries in Dutchess and Ulster County to apply for 2012 Arts Project Grants. She would be happy to come and speak at your county meetings. Download the complete application and guidelines for this program at www.ArtsMidHudson.org and click on 'grants'.

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Growth & Sustainability

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As always, your funding level is at the whim of the municipality.

- 2. Sustainable Funding for Association & Municipal Public Libraries:** You will be hearing more from me in the next few months encouraging your boards to learn about their option to become a library district. I encourage you to pave the way for your boards to have open ears to this information. While they do not need to act immediately and no one can force them to do something they don't want to, it would be good for them to understand their options so they can make informed decisions in the coming years. The autonomy that comes with being a district library is more attractive than ever given the soon-to-be "new normal" of a Tax Cap environment. There is information on the NYS Division of Library Development's web site about becoming a special district library [<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/pldtools/index.html>] In addition, as always, I am available to come to your board meeting to do a customized introduction to the options for your board.

4. **Construction Grant Cycle:** Over twenty libraries intend to apply for construction grants this year. All libraries approved to move forward with an application have received a “green light” or “yellow light” message and are already working on components of the application. This will be the first year the application is online. From here on out communication about the grant will go directly to those approved to apply rather than System wide.
5. **Gates Opportunity Online Broadband Grant:** All fourteen libraries awarded funds under this grant program have successfully wrapped up the second and final year of the grant. This grant provided funds to help libraries boost their broadband speeds and to plan for expandability of their connectivity options. Mary Linda Todd, the grant program administrator at the NYS Division of Library Development reported that the Gates Foundation has found the New York cohort to be the “most successful in the country.”
6. **The July/August Word of Mouth Marketing (WOMM) topic is Mango Languages.** At midhudson.org there is a little refresher for your staff, a “5-question Training” to take, as well as customizable posters, sample text for your web site and newsletters, even sample Tweets!
7. **Updated Member Information:**
 - **Bylaws:** If you have updated your bylaws in the past year please send me a copy. Electronically is great.
 - **Trustee Contact Info:** If you’ve had changes to the make-up of your board please remember to send us an updated roster so we have current contact info for them.
 - Keep plugging away at the **Essential Documents Inventory!** Priority policies to focus on if you haven’t already: internal financial controls & personnel policies

Laurie Shedrick: Automated Systems Manager

1. **Custom Notices:** Over 1/3 of our libraries took advantage of the Custom Notices hands-on Workshop. You will notice many new templates have been loaded. The good news is those of you who chose to wait, now have more samples to “borrow” from!
2. **Group Buys:** Some of you will be picking up your purchases. All scanners are in! Some PCs are ready to pick up or be shipped.
3. **OPAC-I** am very excited to show off some new options for the OPAC. The staging site will be ready for viewing on Friday, July 8th. <http://gigcat.midhudson.org:2082>
4. **Reminder:** You must update your magazine holding statement if you discontinue a title. You must add a statement if you begin a new subscription. Also, please remove any items from Millennium that you no longer retain.
5. **Millennium Create lists for Beginners-Hands on! MHLS-July 25th** This session is very limited, only 8 attendees. To keep everyone on the same level, please limit to only those people who have no background with Millennium Create lists.