The format of this report is based on the MHLS service priorities as determined by MHLS stakeholders.

1 Delivery Services

1.1 Thank You
   a. We would like to thank you for your patience over the past three months as we’ve worked with our new delivery vendor, Valley Courier. We are still working with them on training issues for the substitute drivers.

2 Integrated Library System & Cataloging Services

2.1 Innovative Transitions Hosting to Amazon Web Services (AWS) - MHLS to move: 9/25
   a. The Sierra and Encore servers, currently hosted in the Innovative Syracuse hosting facility, will be moving to the Amazon Web Services on September 25th. The transition begins at midnight completed by 6:30 am. The details of the move have been documented in an FAQ. Updates will be provided through the MHLSnotice mail list. This should be a similar experience as the move from Innovative hosting facilities in California to Syracuse, which took place in October of 2016.
   b. There is nothing for libraries to do in preparation. Sierra will be available in the usual way by opening of business the day of the move. The day of the change libraries should test the access to electronic resources that are not available system wide. This would include any 3rd party tools and resources purchased by the library or through the county.
   c. Our domain name, midhudsonlibraries.org, will not change. The work to reroute the domain to our new IP address will be done immediately after the current site goes down, which gives almost 10 hours for the new IP to be recognized. It may take longer for some DNS servers around the world to be updated to be updated, but here in the North East the update should be a few hours only.
   d. Because an IP address change will be part of this move, vendors who authenticate with IP address using the WAM Proxy or our Sierra APIs will be contacted by MHLS staff. We have reached out to each one already to review the process. They will be contacted with the new IP addresses 4 weeks before the event, and they will also be reminded the day before the change.
   e. While this move is Innovative’s strategy, the move will improve security and redundancy. To learn more about AWS visit https://aws.amazon.com/what-is-aws/.

2.2 Sierra Road Map
   a. Text Messaging has been installed and is currently being tested by staff and volunteers. The Opt. in is currently live in our test environment for anyone who wishes to begin using it. Point your
browser to https://midhudsonlibraries.org:444/patroninfo. You can test by logging into your library account, editing your personal information to opt in, adding a phone number and submitting to save the change. The messages that are supplied to new users to confirm the service are not customizable and are a bit off putting. We have worked with both Innovative and the users group to get this changed, but it requires Innovative filing for changes with the FCC. With only a few sites using this service, they are not motivated to go through the process. We did convince them to make edits to the iii.com/sms website to make it more patron friendly and less about Innovative. The page referred to Innovative with no mention of libraries and now the page at least makes some sense. Otherwise, it is ready for DA review and to have a launch date set.

Below are the messages that we would have liked to change:
Once the patron selects “opt in”, provides a phone number and submits the form, they will receive the following text message (which we cannot alter):
“Reply YES to subscribe to SMS Library Alerts (unlimited msgs). Terms and conditions: http://www.iii.com/sms. Text Help4help, STOP2stop. Msg&Data rates may apply.”

Once they reply “yes”, they get the following message (which we cannot alter):
“Congrats! U Subscribed to SMS Library alerts. Unlimited monthly messages. Text Help4help, STOP2stop. Msg&Data rates may apply.”

b. Decisions Center installation has begun and should be concluded before the DA meeting takes place. The 3-week data unpacking process began in the second week of August. Our access will be available in September. MHLS staff will be working with Innovative to review our codes and statistical categories and training will be delivered at the end of the month to MHLS staff. Training will begin before the end of this year for members.

c. Mobile Worklist was installed, in time to be first revealed to the Sierra Users Group. MHLS staff will be trained on the product in September and will begin working on a training program for member staff. We plan to have both workshops and web-based training available. The App is IOS only. To see a demo: https://youtu.be/Ut8UmizdPLI

2.3 SIERRA / ENCORE UPGRADE REVIEW

a. In Sierra 4.3 upgrade was applied on 8/6. The upgrade included a few nice features, particularly in the area of user customization at the login level, the ability to add actual cost of items in print templates date due slips and the ability to total them, and an increase to the number of Sierra web sessions that can be supported to 40. The upgrade coincided (and probably caused) two issues that had not previously been reported in by other sites since the release was available in April. A display issue in the Sierra application, where the summary of titles does not display the available data. Clicking another record and then returning can fix the issue temporarily. An issue where holds were not correctly paging was resolved by applying a “hot fix”. While this did get pages moving from that point forward. MHLS staff kicked into gear to modify the holds that were placed in the interim between the upgrade and the applied fix, to restart the paging. Patrons who placed their hold in the interim between 8/6 and 8/16 when the hold fix was applied, likely experienced a delay if their items could have paged and filled in that time.

b. Encore Upgrade to 4.9 was completed on 8/21. While the upgrade was not going to add any features and functionality it did carry a handful of bug fixes, including display issues with the facets and the ability to view locations when editing an existing hold. The update, came with a
new bug that causes the record count in Collection to display incorrectly, showing the total count across all fields, or if a collection is selected the count for that collection is then displayed across all fields. This behavior is scheduled to be fixed in the release 5.0, due out is September. Another issue that is not related to the upgrade is that our Encore automatic indexing is stopping on an occasion, which will delay records that show in Sierra to be shown in Encore. There is always a small delay, but we have had occasions where the delay extends beyond the usual 30 minutes. MHLS catalogers are quick to spot this as they review the records that are loaded throughout the day.

2.4 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

a. **Hands on Create Lists** – Level 2, MHLS 9/16, 9/17

This workshop is designed for people who are regular users of Sierra Create Lists and are familiar with creating and running basic reports. In this hands-on workshop, attendees will generate Create Lists reports incorporating advanced features to fine tune their search queries.

At this event we will cover:

- How to build advanced Queries for Create Lists
- Getting specific with your search to find the data you need
- Identifying ‘problem’ records to clean up the catalog
- What information can be accessed with Create Lists

b. **Decision Center Training**: Decision Center is a web-based analytics and reporting tool that is included in our new Sierra contract. Decision Center will assist in collection development, transaction reports and even weeding projects. MHLS will provide training in each county beginning in the last week of October. The two-hour training will cover the user options, initial and secondary filters, scheduling, importing and exporting.

c. **Local History & Special Collections Roundtable** – 2pm, October 21 at MHLS Auditorium and Online: Facilitated by Nina Acosta, MHLS Assistant ILP Operations Supervisor This interactive discussion group brings together experienced staff with those wanting to learn more about digitizing local history materials. This session will feature a brief presentation on the Hudson River Valley Heritage (HRVH) & NY Heritage.

d. **Sierra Users** met on the 24th of August. The first group was small, but they seemed to find the forum to be worthwhile. Our next meeting will be in the Spring. We will be looking to the members to help with the programming, so keep this in mind as you have projects or programs where Sierra played a role. Share your successes and your process.

2.5 NEW KNOWLEDGE BASE

a. The KB.midhudson.org website will be transitioned over to the new MHLS Knowledgebase by mid-September. The site is in a test environment for review. Documentation that exists on the current site has been reimagined and placed on the new site. New content areas include the
Sierra Roadmap and toolboxes for staff and administrators to provide quick and easy access. The site will continue to be developed as a destination for information about Sierra and related topics. The site has been endorsed by the Resource Sharing Committee and was well received by the Sierra Users Group.

2.6 **CHANGES TO ORDER RECORDS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY**

Starting the week of September 16th, order records for libraries using the shared accounting unit will display in Sierra with a status of "a - Fully paid" instead of "o - On Order". The patron-facing record will continue to display as it does currently.

*Ex: 1 copy ordered for Millbrook Adult on 09-12-2019.*

This change will not affect the library's acquisition process of receiving of orders when the items are entered in Sierra. Library staff may continue to change order status to "z - Cancelled" at any time if an order will not be fulfilled.

This change was recommended by Innovative during our onsite audit, approved by the DA and paid for with Capital funds.

3 **COORDINATED IT SERVICES**

3.1 **UPGRADING TELEPHONE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

a. A new server has been ordered to accommodate a new telephone notification system to replace teleforms. That system is called Itiva and is comes to us as part of our new contract with Innovative, but is provided by a 3rd party vendor, Talking Tech. The new system will improve call quality and provide better analytics. Once the server arrives and MHLS staff have training, we will begin the installation. We will provide you with a go live date in the MHLS Notice list. We are prioritizing this upgrade for two reasons. First, the current system is no longer supported by Innovative and secondly, the system is no longer working without MHLS staff propping it us several times a day. The change in systems will not affect your workflows in any way and the service swap will take place in the off hours, so there should be no disruption. We will also be recording new messages to improve on the current patchwork of voices.

3.2 **UPDATE OR INSTALL IN LINE UPS POWER PROTECTORS IF YOU DON’T HAVE THEM.**

a. Recent Thunderstorms have damaged libraries’ network equipment. To help prevent this we recommend using a UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply). UPS will also keep your equipment up and running during short brown or blackouts. And allow you to properly turn off equipment during longer outages. We recommend the APC UPS Battery Backup & Surge Protector, 600VA, APC Back-UPS (BE600M1), or similar product. If you have an existing UPS, check the battery. UPS Batteries should be replaced every 3-5 years.
4  PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUING EDUCATION (CASEY)

4.1 LEADING MEETINGS THAT MATTER
   a. The MHLS Leadership Circle will meet after the September DA meeting from 12:00-2:00pm. Please register online for this event: https://bit.ly/31HapF6 Lunch will be provided.

4.2 ADVOCATES AND AMBASSADORS WORKSHOPS
   a. This workshop will help library staff, directors, trustees and friends win public support and attract public funds to benefit their library. Participants will learn to craft messages that will generate supporters and followers for their library. At the workshop, we’ll review how funding works at the local, county and state levels and effective advocacy strategies for delivering messages that resonate with your audience.
      o Saturday, November 9th from 10:00am-12:00pm @Hudson Area Association Library
         Register: http://bit.ly/33Bq0lc
      o Thursday, November 21st from 5:30-7:30pm @MHLS Auditorium
         Register: http://bit.ly/2KADwEw
      o Tuesday, December 10th from 10:00am-12:00pm @Kingston Library

4.3 FALL TRUSTEE EDUCATION SERIES
   a. Trustee Essentials
      o Tuesday, September 10th from 9:30am-12:30pm @MHLS
      o Thursday, September 12th from 5:30-8:30pm @Mahopac Library
         Register: http://bit.ly/33CZuyb
      o Saturday, September 21st from 9:30am-12:30pm @Cairo Public Library
   b. Intermediate
      o Legal Issues
         i. Saturday, October 5th from 9:30am-12:30pm @ Hudson Area Library
            Register: http://bit.ly/2YXmmJ6
      o Financial & Fiduciary
         i. Thursday, October 17th from 9:30am-12:30pm @MHLS
   c. Advanced
      o Strategic Thinking: Advocacy & Planning
         i. Wednesday, October 30th from 5:30-8:30pm @Patterson Library
4.4 **End of Summer Get-Together for Programmers**

a. This program is open to all library staff who work on summer programming for all ages. The goal of this program is to encourage programmers to discuss what went well at their libraries during the summer, and what problems they learned from in order to teach and inspire one another.

Monday, September 9th from 2:00-4:00pm @ MHLS Auditorium  

4.5 **Social Media Roundtable**

a. This roundtable is for member library directors, staff and trustees to discuss how libraries use social media, ask questions, share their current practices, and learn about upcoming trends in the marketing world that will affect libraries.

Friday, September 20th from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM @ MHLS Auditorium  

5 **Consulting & Development**

5.1 **2019 Lab Project to be Featured During the PR Exchange**

a. Member Library Directors involved in the 2019 Lab Project: Increasing Program Attendance, will share their experience working on this project during a panel presentation at the 2019 PR Exchange which will occur directly after the one-hour DA business meeting on September 6th.

5.2 **Turning Outwards Cohort**

a. Members of the 2019 Turning Outwards cohort have finished their community conversations, facilitated discussions which help community members articulate their aspirations for the places they live. Libraries have identified themes from these discussions and developed plans to address them with community partners. In October, the cohort will begin using these themes to shape their library’s strategic plan.

b. If you are interested in joining the 2020 cohort please register for the 2020 Introductory Webinar on Tuesday, October 29th from 10:00-11:00am. Feel free to contact me with any questions: cconlin@midhuson.org.  

c. If you are looking for more info please feel free to contact me or speak with a member of the current cohort: Beekman, Beacon, Putnam Valley, Roeliff Jansen.

5.3 **Town of Union Vale Contract Update (Rebekkah)**

a. Four member libraries impacted by the contract with the Town of Union Vale have directed MHLS to engage in a contract negotiation with the Town Board of Union Vale to prepare for the expiration of this contract at the end of 2019.
b. Background: This contract is in place as a result of our state-mandated Direct Access Plan. The town of Union Vale does not have a library and Union Vale residents have traditionally used the four neighboring libraries. However, this use had, for many years, been subsidized by the taxpayers of the neighboring towns. Usage of neighboring libraries rose to a level that triggered restrictions to library services to be put in place in 2015 (using the mechanisms provided through the MHLS Direct Access Plan) for the residents of Union Vale due to the lack of financial investment by their town to the neighboring libraries. The current contract provides for a more equitable financial situation which enabled the restrictions to be lifted.

5.4 OATHS OF OFFICE FOR ALL PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES (CASEY)
   a. The New York State Library issued an important reminder that Public Offiver's Law §10 requires all public library trustees (but not association library trustees) to take an oath of office within 30 days of beginning their term of office. Public library trustees are public officers and the oath of office is required to officially undertake and perform the duties of a public library trustee. If a public library trustee does not properly complete and file an oath of office, the trustee's position may be deemed vacant. See Public Officer's Law §30(1)(h). For more information about how and why the oath of office is administered, and where to properly file an oath of office, please see the Oaths of Office FAQ page on the State Library's web site:
   http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/trustees/oath.htm

5.5 FY2020 INFLATION AND ALLOWABLE LEVY GROWTH (CASEY)
   a. Property tax levy growth for libraries with fiscal years that close on December 31 will be capped at 2 percent for the 2020 fiscal year, according to State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. All libraries that have their own board and their own budget vote – even if you did hold a vote/don’t plan to hold a vote in 2019 are required to file the online “tax cap form” the NYS Office of the State Comptroller by the end of the year. A reminder that any override of the cap must be accompanied by a cap override resolution passed by a super majority of the library’s board of trustees prior to the adoption of the 2020 budget. A primer on the Tax Cap for libraries is available from MHLS at http://bit.ly/2ceMNjO.

5.6 COPYRIGHT REMINDER (CASEY)
   a. Copyright enforcement companies use web crawling and scraping programs to analyze sites all over the internet for images and pictures that match images and pictures that their clients have copyright claim to. If your library’s website or Facebook page has images that you are not permitted to use under the licensing agreement established by the artist, you could receive an email from a copyright enforcement company demanding payment for infringement of their client’s copyrights. An unintentional violation of the copyright law, if your web designer or staff put the image up without your knowledge, is still a violation. In some cases, the payments can be negotiated, but the cost to the library would still be hundreds of dollars or more per violation. To avoid this, ensure you have the necessary rights to use any images on your library’s social media or web pages. For a list free image sources, visit For a list of sources for free images you can use on your website, social media and other publicity visit https://midhudson.org/2019/08/copyright-reminder.
5.7 NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY (CASEY)

a. Libraries can help activate citizens throughout their communities by participating in National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 24. Learn more at http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org and sign up to be a 2018 Partner. "Partners" organize in-person voter registration efforts on National Voter Registration day and promote voter registration through marketing and communication efforts.

5.8 2020 CENSUS (CASEY)

a. The citizenship question, “Is this person a citizen of the United States?” has been removed from the Census by a decision by the Supreme Court. The question may have already had a chilling effect on response rates to the Census, especially in hard-to-count populations and immigrant and new American communities.

b. For a preview of the draft questions that will be on the Census, visit https://midhudson.org/topics/sustainable-libraries/census-2020/.

5.9 3D PRINTED GUNS BANNED (CASEY)

a. Senate Bill S1414 establishes crimes relating to the criminal possession or manufacture of an undetectable firearm, rifle, or shotgun, or major component of a firearm, making it illegal for any person to knowingly possess, manufacture, sell, transport, or possess such weapons.

5.10 GREAT GIVE BACK (CASEY)

a. Over half of MHLS member libraries have signed up to participate in the Great Give Back on October 19, which is a day for libraries to provide patrons with service opportunities and ways to give back to their community. The Great Give Back, coordinated statewide this year, also offers libraries the chance to collectively highlight their evolving role as local connectors, providing opportunities for people to do some good and help their neighbors and their communities.

b. Libraries participating in the Great Give Back will be presented with the MHLS Spotlight Award at this year’s MHLS Annual Membership Meeting.

5.11 GROW WITH GOOGLE / PLA INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

a. Libraries Lead with Digital Skills is an initiative of ALA and PLA, sponsored by Google, to ensure that public libraries across the nation receive ongoing access to free tools and resources to help everyone across America grow their skills, careers, and businesses. To date, there is no information on when the online portal to apply for the $1,000 projects will open for New York State libraries, but libraries will be required to implement the programs they apply for within 60 days of receiving notification of approval. Further information will be disseminated as soon as it becomes available. General information on the project is available at http://www.ala.org/pla/initiatives/google
5.12 Sexual Harassment Prevention Deadline (Casey)
   a. Sexual harassment prevention training must be carried out for all New York State employees by October 9, 2019. MHLS has put together policy, forms, and training materials to make meeting the requirements of the law as easy as possible for member libraries.
      o Policy, forms, and training materials are available at https://midhudson.org/new-york-state-sexual-harassment-law-policy-and-training/

6 Cooperative Collection Development & Digital Collection Access

6.1 Consumer Reports Access Has Ended
   a. Just a reminder that access to the Consumer Reports database has ended on 8/31.

6.2 OverDrive Offers a Browsing Collection — Lucky Day
   a. OverDrive’s Lucky Day feature allows you to designate copies of titles as non-holdable and non-renewable in the digital collection. When used with popular, in-demand titles, this gives patrons a chance to get a copy sooner than they would if they just added their name to the end of a long waitlist. Nina has created a page with the details of how this works with your advantage collection, including examples. https://midhudson.org/lucky-day-copies/

7 Awareness & Advocacy Services

7.1 Save The Date NYLA Advocacy Day 2020 (Casey)
   a. Once again, library advocates from all over New York State will converge on the capital to make sure libraries get the funding they need to continue to provide essential services and support their communities. Advocacy Day 2020 will be on Tuesday, February 25.

8 Interlibrary Loan Services (Laurie)

8.1 Magazines for Corrections
   a. Member libraries that would like to donate materials to the correctional facilities including: magazines, Spanish language materials, encyclopedias published after 2009, coloring books and puzzle books should contact Courtney Wimmers, cwimmers@midhudson.org. All donations must be dropped off at the MHLS offices, they may not be sent through the delivery.

8.2 State Aid for Library Construction
   a. FY2019-2020
o State Aid for Library Construction funds increased $20 million to last year’s high-water mark of $34 Million late in the legislative session thanks to post-budget advocacy efforts from the library community.

o State Aid for Library Construction recommendations for FY2019-2020 will be announced after the MHLS Board of Trustees meeting on September 18.

b. FY2018-2019

o Grant Awards Announced:

- Beekman Library / $4,309 / Energy efficient lighting installation
- Brewster Public Library / $8,375 / Lighting and wiring upgrades
- Claverack Free Library / $302,089 / Building renovation for library expansion
- D.R. Evarts Library District / $282,947 / Make library more ADA compliant, including ramp and restrooms
- Elting Memorial Library / $2,500 / Sidewalk reconstruction to ensure patron safety
- Germantown Library / $4,645 / Renovation of library entrance and HVAC upgrades
- Hudson Area Association Library / $10,705 / Construct storage space
- Julia L. Butterfield Library / $40,642 / Interior renovations for ADA compliance
- Kinderhook Memorial Library / $38,069 / Interior and exterior renovations
- Kingston Library / $58,447 / Construct outdoor program and meeting space
- North Chatham Free Library / $5,304 / Expand parking lot
- Pawling Free Library / $6,246 / Build a new teen space
- Roeliff Jansen Community Library / $72,628 / Driveway and parking lot renovations
- Stanford Free Library / $240,610 / Install new HVAC and energy efficient exterior walls/roof
- Stone Ridge Library / $9,930 / Expand circulation area for ADA compliance
- The Desmond-Fish Library / $59,217 / Solar panel installation
- Town of Ulster Public Library / $70,839 / Lighting upgrades
- Mid-Hudson Library System / $93,350 / Renovate auditorium

9 COMMUNICATIONS AMONG MEMBER LIBRARIES (CASEY)

9.1 NO REPORT FOR THIS MEETING.

a. If you have questions about this service area, contact Casey Conlin (cconlin@midhudson.org)
10 Special Populations (Casey)

10.1 Summer Reading Final Report Due
   a. The 2019 Summer Reading Program Final Report form is now available for MHLS member libraries. Every member library is required to submit an online Summer Reading Program Final Report. To access the report please visit https://midhudson.org/summer-reading-program/
   b. Reports are due by Friday, September 13th.
   c. If you have any questions or if your library will not be able to submit by the deadline, please contact Courtney Wimmers, MHLS Outreach & Engagement Specialist at cwimmers@midhudson.org or 845-471-6060 ext.253.

10.2 Outreach Mini-Grant Update
   a. 35 member libraries were notified of the approval of their 2019 Outreach Mini-Grants (funded by NYS 2019 Outreach Categorical Aid, administered by MHLS) at the beginning of June by email and packet in the delivery.
   b. A reminder that the Receipt Form with all receipts attached (dated 1/1/19 – 11/1/19) must be sent to MHLS Business Office before November 14, 2019, for reimbursement. MHLS will reimburse your library within 3 weeks of receiving your completed paperwork, so if it is ready, send it in! The online final report survey is also due on or before November 14th, 2019.
   c. For more info visit https://bit.ly/348ZFRJ

10.3 Early Literacy Awards
   a. The Early Literacy Cohort Program, funded by New York State Library’s Family Literacy Library Services 2019-20 program, is now underway. The following libraries will be participating in the program:
      o Clinton Community Library
      o Hudson Area Association Library
      o Marlboro Library
      o Patterson Library
      o Pawling Free Library
      o Pleasant Valley Free Library
   b. Participating library staff will attend 5 mandatory meetings/trainings that will cover the full curriculum of the Ready to Read at New York Libraries: Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program. They will also receive support from MHLS staff, from member library peers in the cohort, and from professional materials provided by MHLS, as well as funds for early literacy materials.

10.4 Adult Literacy Awards
   a. Adult Literacy Awards 2019-2020 - The following 8 libraries have been approved for the Adult Literacy mini-grants funded by New York State Library’s Adult Literacy Library Services 2019-2020 program.
Each of the libraries will be working with a literacy partner in their community and collect program evaluations using Project Outcome. The programs will be focused on enhancing workforce development services and improving adult literacy on the job and in the home.

11 COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH OTHER LIBRARY SYSTEMS

11.1 NO REPORT FOR THIS MEETING.
   a. IF you have questions about this service area, please contact Rebekkah (rsmith@midhudson.org)

12 ADMINISTRATIVE

12.1 60TH MHLS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
   a. Friday, October 25th at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum [https://www.fdrlibrary.org/]
   c. Free tours of the museum included with the ticket price!

12.2 SURVEY OF STAKEHOLDER TO DETERMINE EFFECTIVENESS OF MHLS SOCIAL MEDIA
   a. As part of MHLS’ assessment of communications with our member libraries, an online survey (Action Memo) regarding the impact of MHLS social media platforms will be sent in November.

12.3 NYLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
   a. NYLA Conference Scholarship from MHLS helps provide new library directors and new library staff with the opportunity to attend the Annual Conference of the New York Library Association by matching funds provided by the library to underwrite conference attendance. MHLS is proud to announce the following library staff members have been selected as recipients for this award, which will help them discover new concepts in the library world and establish professional networks and relationships in the New York library community: Danielle Argentieri – Brewster Public Library, Carly Doyle – Chatham Public Library, Lindsay Jankovitz – Marlboro Free Library, Brian James – Town of Esopus Library.