

State Librarian's Report to the State of Vermont Board of Libraries

For the July 12, 2022 State Board of Libraries meeting

By Catherine Delneo, Vermont State Librarian and Commissioner of Libraries

Hiring Update

Jessie Dall, Executive Assistant, joined the Department of Libraries on Monday, May 23rd.

Working Group on the Status of Vermont Libraries

The working group met on May 20th to hear testimony from staff of Vermont's libraries on the topic of Technology. Per the bill establishing the working group, the working group "may study whether library facilities and buildings could be improved with regard to energy efficiency, flexibility, human health and safety, historic preservation, and intergenerational needs."

Ten (10) community members provided testimony during the meeting including school, public, and academic librarians, and a colleague from Vermont Humanities. The Working Group received fourteen (14) submissions of written testimony on the topic of Technology (including one combined submission from 14 school librarians and another combined submissions from two staff of academic libraries).

The meeting can be watched in its entirety online and draft minutes of the meeting have been posted online. https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/projects/working_group

The Working Group will convene regular meetings via Microsoft Teams (with an onsite option at 60 Washington Street in Barre, VT) between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm with a recess for at least one hour but not more than two hours at noon on the 4th Friday of every other month for the period beginning Friday, July 22nd, 2022, through September 22nd, 2023. (The working group will convene special meetings on November 18, 2022 and November 17, 2023 to avoid conflicts with the Thanksgiving Holiday.)

The next meeting will be held on July 22nd from 9:00am-3pm and will focus on Staffing. The agenda of the September 23rd has not yet been set.

Legislative Update

As I shared in the April 2022 report, Governor Scott requested the Legislature allocate \$15.9 million dollars of federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan) funds to states in support of capital improvements to Vermont's public libraries that would ensure Vermonters have high-speed internet access needed for work, education, and health monitoring. The Legislature allocated \$16.4 million dollars in funding to

support capital improvements at public libraries. To receive the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund, the State must submit a grant plan to the US Department of Treasury by September 24th. The Department's grant plan is under review currently.

Request for Congressionally Directed Spending

As I shared in the April 2022 report, the Department of Libraries requested \$10 million of Congressionally Directed Spending funds through Senator Leahy's office. This request has moved forward in the process and will be considered by the Legislature. If we receive this federal funding, the Department of Libraries will subgrant it out to public libraries throughout the state to support capital improvements.

IMLS ARPA FUNDS

The Vermont Department of Libraries received \$2,135,819 in ARPA funding this year through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grants to States program.

Since the last meeting of the Board of Libraries, the Department has issued a *second round* of the [IMLS ARPA Grants](#) to public libraries for specific purchases, making over \$300,000 in total grant funding available to public libraries for one-time purchases including resources to enhance local libraries' Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, New American, ADA, or multi-lingual library collections.

The Department leveraged these one-time IMLS ARPA funds to purchase collections for each of Vermont's six correctional facilities, allocating \$8,000 in collections to each site. These collections have been received at the Department of Libraries and we began delivering boxes of books to correctional facilities last week.

The Department also allocated some of the IMLS ARPA funding toward the purchase of 12 sets of 15 titles from our Care Collection ([Materials for Dealing with Loss, Grief, and Trauma](#)) to be placed into the 12 statewide family services division (DCF) district offices. Resource coordinators will use these books with and for their clients. This is the next step in a collaboration with DCF that started with the Barre district office and the Vermont Child Welfare Training Partnership. The first batch of books was delivered to the Barre district office on May 26th.

Summer Reading

This year's Summer Reading theme is "Oceans of Possibilities"!

To support programming for youth at public libraries across the state our team at the Vermont Department of Libraries granted \$300 all public libraries that apply and are eligible for this grant funding. Visit your local library to see the amazing summer reading displays and programs around the aquatic theme!

Library Consultant Tour

The Department's library consultants have embarked on an ambitious effort to visit libraries statewide. The consultants travel in two cars, each with a separate itinerary for the day. Each group visits a handful of libraries and then the entire team convenes for a panel event at a large regional library.

The consultants visited Caledonia and Lamoille Counties and conducted a panel at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum on June 14th. On June 17th they visited Essex and Orleans Counties and conducted a panel at the Goodrich Memorial Public Library in Newport.

They're hitting the road again on July 19th, when they'll visit libraries in Windsor County and convene for a panel event at the Norwich Public Library.

Their tours will continue through September, and we'll provide updates on their progress at the next Board of Libraries Meeting.

Library Visits by the State Librarian

On June 17th, the State Librarian visited Lincoln Public Library, Bixby Public Library (Vergennes), the Russell Memorial Library (North Ferrisburgh), and the Charlotte Library, where she connected with Board of Libraries Vice Chair Maxie Ewins.

On June 29th the State Librarian visited the New Haven Community Library and the Lawrence Memorial Library (Bristol). She also met with Sen. Hardy at the Ilsley Public Library (Middlebury) to provide an update on the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont.

June 23rd the State Librarian met with incoming President of the Vermont Library Association (VLA), Kelly McCagg, at the Burnham Memorial Library (Colchester), then met with incoming VLA Vice President and Dean of UVM Libraries, Bryn Geffert at UVM's Howe Library (Burlington).

On July 8th the State librarian visited Brooks Memorial Library (Brattleboro), Moore Free Library (Newfane), Putney Public Library, and Mary L. Blood Library (West Windsor).

These tours provide opportunities for one-on-one conversation with library directors about their libraries, their challenges and successes, and the supports they receive or would like from the Department.

Vermont Book Awards

The Department of Libraries partnered with the [Vermont College of Fine Arts](#), the [Vermont Department of Libraries](#), and Vermont Humanities, the Vermont Book Award is an annual prize for outstanding literature by a Vermont author.



State of Vermont
Department of Libraries
60 Washington Street, Suite 2
Barre, VT 05641

Tel: 802-636-0040

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The 2021 award honors books written by a Vermont author and published in 2021. This year's winners were announced at a reception at VT College of Fine Arts on April 30th.

Creative Non-fiction: **The Secret to Superhuman Strength** by Alison Bechdel
Melanie Finn for fiction (**The Hare**) and Shanta Lee Gander for poetry (**Ghettoclaustrophobia: Dreamin of Mama While Trying to Speak Woman in Woke Tongues**)

Vermont Youth Book Awards

The Department announce the winners of all three 2021-2022 youth book awards since the April meeting of the Board. The winners are:

[Red Clover Award](#): **The Barnabus Project** by Terry Fan, Eric Fan, & Devin Fan
[Vermont Golden Dome Book Award](#) **Millionaires for the Month** by Stacy McAnulty
[Green Mountain Book Award](#) **The Inheritance Games** by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

We appreciate the efforts of Vermont students, teachers, and librarians who participated in the book awards. The Department also thanks all the fabulous committee members who worked tirelessly to curate this year's amazing lists of nominated books!

Workshops in Accessibility in Libraries

We are partnering with Inclusive Arts Vermont to host a series of workshops focused on improving library accessibility for disabled people. This series of three workshops and a number of drop-in office hours with Inclusive Arts Vermont is being called "Accessibility in Libraries: Key Elements for Inclusion of Disabled People."

Information about these workshops can be found on our Continuing Education page.

USB Microphones

In partnership with Big Heavy World and the Fletcher Free Library, the Dept of Libraries 90 USB microphones will be made available to the public through their local libraries. The USB microphones are small plug-and-play microphones that libraries can check out directly to the public. They work great for transmitting and/or recording spoken word or music and we anticipate that aspiring podcasters and musicians will really enjoy using them.

These devices will also be available through InterLibrary Loan. The Fletcher Free Library has a supply of USB mics that can be requested by libraries on the courier system and the VT State Library also has a supply of USB mics that can be requested by libraries who receive ILL materials through the US mail. Public libraries can opt in add a USB microphone to their collection to circulate directly to their patrons.

Park and Historic Site Passes

The Department sent Vermont Public Libraries passes to state parks and historic sites, which are available for check out!



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