The Library Ecosystem:
ONE VOICE for Vermont

Presented by

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ONE VOICE: Building a Strong Library Ecosystem

A library ecosystem is the interconnected network of all types of libraries, library workers, volunteers, and associations that provide and facilitate library services for community members; families; K-20 learners; college and university communities; local, state and federal legislatures and government offices; businesses; nonprofits; and other organizations with specific information needs.

		THE LIBRARY ECOSYSTEM: KEY SERVICES PROVIDED BY PATRON TYPE		
Public	-Storytimes -Sensory Play	-Provide additional resources/reading materials -After-school programs -Summer reading programs	-Provide additional resources/reading materials	-Meet community-wide needs -Community programs -Business resources -Reading materials
Academic			-Provide resources to support research and coursework -Teach information literacy	-Provide college/university staff with resources and support
School		-Support curriculum with resources and through co-teaching -Lead dynamic school-wide reading culture -Build diverse collection -Teach all forms of literacy and digital citizenship; prepare for career & college -Teach & support technology integration		-Collaborate & co-teach with other teachers -Provide specific resources to teachers -Provide professional development -Provide resources to parents
Library Type	Infant / Preschool	K-12 School	College	Adult

So what do we have in common …

Common Goals Across Library Types:
One Voice for Library Advocacy

Public Access

Inquiry Skills

Love of Learning

Historical Record

Information Literacy

Strong Community

https://www.ala.org/advocacy/ala-ecosystem-initiative

Core Values of Librarianship:
One Voice for Library Advocacy

- **Access**

- **Confidentiality& Privacy**

- **Democracy**

- **Diversity**

- **Education**

- **Intellectual Freedom**

- **The Public Good**

- **Preservation**

- **Professionalism**

- **Service**

- **Social Responsibility**

- **Sustainability**

Source: https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/corevalues

ALA Ecosystem Initiative: https://www.ala.org/advocacy/ala-ecosystem-initiative

ONE VOICE: Building a Strong Library Ecosystem

Bringing advocacy to the front.

The Four Strands of Ecosystem Work

Leadership for building a state-wide library ecosystem is dependent upon an awareness of and active collaboration with various and diverse library partners. Leadership must facilitate connections across library types as the multiplicity of library types is the ecosystem. Leadership refers to the expertise of representatives from participating groups, intentionality around building an inclusive model for participation, and the skills participants offer in communication and collaboration towards a sustainable ecosystem effort.

Beginning	Evolving	Highly Effective	Resources & Examples
Ecosystem Perspective			
Participating organization leaders: ▪ understand the goals/priorities/importance of a state ecosystem. ▪ begin to engage with related organizations to build an ecosystem. ▪ build support for the ecosystem effort within their respective organizations.	Participating organization leaders: ▪ actively work to understand the perspectives of other organization leaders' roles within the ecosystem. ▪ bring broader understanding back to individual organizations to build stronger support for participation.	Organization leaders: ▪ understand the infrastructures within the state. ▪ know with whom to coordinate both within and beyond the library associations to influence better outcomes. ▪ bring understanding and knowledge to the leadership of individual organizations.	Unpacking ESSA for the Library Ecosystem: americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/unpacking-essa-library-ecosystem Our Library Ecosystem Is Under Threat: huffpost.com/entry/our-library-ecosystem-is-_b_5159932 Public Libraries in Massachusetts: An Evolving Ecosystem: mblc.state.ma.us/ecosystem
Change Agent			
▪ Leader-representatives from participating organizations	▪ Leaders take personal responsibility to represent their individual	▪ Leaders take collective responsibility for maintaining a state ecosystem	Qualities of Effective Change Agents: michiganstateuniversityonline.com/

UNITY across Library Types and Vermont Library Advocates & Stakeholders

- Understanding of shared values
- Shared recognition of skills and responsibilities
- Advocate for patron access and comfort
- Protection of rights through policies

Ecosystem Agenda Building: Information Gathering
Template for Building a Collaborative Advocacy Agenda

This template offers one process for soliciting information regarding advocacy priorities from all library types in your ecosystem, consolidating that information to see overlaps, and developing collective priorities.

Issues that might inform advocacy priorities:
(There are many issues that libraries advocate for. Here are just a few to help you build a list that reflects your organization's priorities.)

Legislative Advocacy	Advocacy for Community Awareness
Funding	Diversity and inclusion
Staffing	Equity of access
Broadband and connectivity	Broadband and connectivity
Digital resources	Digital services
Access	In-person services
Standards	Resources

POSSIBLE Work Plan

Identify concrete steps to take across vermont library organizations and stakeholders to strengthen collaboration for advocacy.

Goal	Concrete Steps	Measurable Results	Notes

Personal Reflection/Personal Action Plan:
- What will you personally do to continue to reach out to other organizations in the state in order to keep strong connections with other Vermont library supporters in the ecosystem? List at least one concrete action.
- How do you suggest Vermont stakeholders move forward to build a strong ecosystem that maximizes communication and collaboration across the association? List one concrete suggestion.
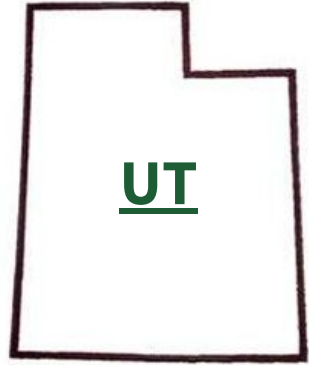-

Actions We Must Take

- Facilitate connections across library types & stakeholders

- Speak with **one voice** in advocacy and collaboration.

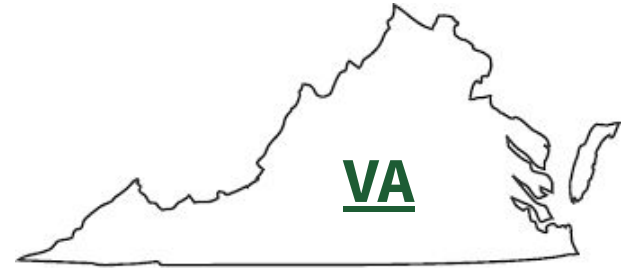- Welcome equitable access to participation.

Remember to

- **Recognize that we are in this together**

- **Collaborate with all members of your Vermont Ecosystem**

Linked Examples from These States

UT

MI

VA

OK

TN

ALAAmericanLibraryAssociation

Ecosystem links

- ONE VOICE: Building a Strong Ecosystem website
- Unite Against Book Bans
- Library Ecosystem FAQ Handout
- ALA Advocacy Action Planning workbook (2023)
- State Legislative Toolkit from COLA (2022)
- Who Are the People In Your Ecosystem? Webinar (10/29/2020)
- Together we make a Difference! Ecosystem Webinar (12/7/2021)

Q&A

Link to Slides

https://tinyurl.com/5fp46ax3