

Director Report
April-May-June 2024

Administration

During the June meeting, the auditors will present the SALS (Southern Adirondack Library System) 2023 audit review, a pivotal update that will not only keep us all informed but also actively involved in understanding and maintaining our financial health.

Chris Connell, Pamela DelSignore, Paul Mays, and I met to discuss the urgent need for parking lot repair. The harsh winters have taken a toll, and it now requires extensive attention. The Building Committee will submit a proposal to apply for Public Library Construction Aid, underlining the importance of this issue.

SALS has been allocated approximately 1.2 million dollars to disburse to qualifying projects. The Division of Library Development will soon open the Library Construction portal.

The SALS Board will be asked to approve some revisions to JA policies approved by the MVLS board and the JA Council under new business. The revisions pertain to updates in language to match new technologies or to reflect current practice.

Throughout the past few months, I kept the SALS Board up to date on the work being done regarding Schenectady County Public Library selecting to leave the JA. Appreciation to Alex Gutelius, Chair of the JA Council, populating the Ad Hoc Committees. Updates can be found on [the SALS website](#).

I am beginning my annual visits to meet with our member library boards of trustees. It is one of my favorite responsibilities. You would be most welcome if a SALS trustee would like to join me.

Kudos to Pamela DelSignore and the SALS staff for their exceptional work at the Annual Dinner. We had almost 150 people register for the dinner. The speakers were engaging, and the only hiccups were the vegetarian dinner and the sound system. The venue gave us a refund for those dinners. It was difficult saying goodbye to long-time trustees Jordan Hornstein and Russ Wise, and we deeply appreciate the staff's efforts in making the event a success, making them feel valued for their hard work.

Colleen Smith is working with NYCON to update the SALS Employee Handbook. Once the draft is completed, it will be shared with the SALS Personnel Committee and then to the SALS Board for approval.

She filed the 2024 Annual Survey for the US Census Bureau.

Colleen also reviewed and approved the pre-billed earnings for the annual NYSLRS invoice.

Every year, all New York (NY) State employees must complete sexual harassment prevention training. It was distributed to all SALS employees and board members and was made available to member libraries to train their staff and board. Colleen worked with member library staff to update their staff lists to allow all current employees and board members to complete the training. Colleen reported that seventeen member libraries (235 people) were registered.

She also assisted with the JA semi-annual group order.

The SALS staff and Board will begin the preparation of the 2025 budget this summer. Personnel and Audit and Finance Committees meetings will be scheduled in either June or July.

The SALS Annual Statistical Summary is taking a bit longer to compile. Previous summaries are not ADA accessible, and changing the format is causing the delay.

Once again, SALS participated in No Mow May. It is a nationwide effort to avoid mowing the lawn in May to help provide more food sources for bees and other pollinators emerging from winter hibernation.

Shortly after the SALS Board Meeting, I will leave for the ALA (American Library Association) Annual Conference in San Diego, CA. Although I will not be presenting, my schedule is full of meetings. Starting in July, I will begin my third and final year on the ALA Executive Board.

ALA has been keeping me busy. I am involved in two searches for important leadership positions with the ALA.

The ALA Executive Board meetings are held monthly, but face-to-face meetings are required. I am asking permission to attend the face-to-face meetings. Approval of staff attending meetings and conferences is under new business. Approval of attendance does not necessarily mean staff will attend. Pre-approval allows SALS staff to take advantage of early bird registration.

The New York Library Association's Annual meeting will be held in Syracuse November 6-9.

Trustees interested in attending will receive CE credits. You may register through your personal NYLA member account. Please contact Colleen or NYLA if you need assistance registering. Early bird registration will open shortly before the SALS September Board Meeting.

Ending on an up note – all budget referendums passed in June. Communities appreciate great library services – and our libraries deliver.

Joint Automation

It is recommended that members of the SALS Board of Trustees and other interested parties keep up to date on the work beginning done regarding the Schenectady County Public Library's decision to leave the ILS. This information can be found on the [SALS website](#).

Cataloging

Jill Ryder has been working as part of the internal SCPL withdrawal transition team to assist in drafting messages and creating a plan for SCPL to leave the Polaris ILS. The team meets frequently to address concerns and share information with the membership.

As part of the broader SCPL Transition Team, which comprises JA, MVLS, SCPL, and Schenectady County staff, Jill reported the highlights of that Team's April 22 meeting to the JA Council.

Jill is also part of the JA Council's recently created ILS Features Ad Hoc Committee and Ending Reciprocal Holds Ad Hoc Committee. These committees will meet as needed and report their findings to the JA Council over the coming months.

As part of her daily work, Jill assists library staff with running reports, changing Polaris system administration settings, bulk changing library items in the catalog, database cleanup, and answering all Polaris questions that arise.

SALS catalogers (Jill Ryder and Johanna Hall) modified 6,379 bibliographic records in the catalog during April and May 2024. During the same months, 6,646 new bibliographic records and 26,371 new item records were added to the database. This work is done by cataloging and technical processing staff at the System offices (SALS and MVLS) and the 48 member libraries. Bib records represent individual works (e.g., a book, a DVD, etc.), and item records represent each library's copy of that work.

Jill oversees the purchasing of eBooks and eAudiobooks for the shared OverDrive collection; 735 titles were purchased in April and May 2024. Popular titles purchased include Emily Henry's humorous romance novel *Funny Story*, Abby Jimenez's new beach read *Just for the Summer*, and Freida McFadden's thriller *The Teacher*.

Outreach and Adult Services

Over the past few months, Erica Freudenberger has worked with many library directors and staff members. Some projects include assisting in updating a strategic plan, library internships, successful referendums, new director training, staffing and hiring plans, grant writing, and public bidding.

She spoke to Skidmore College students about the role of library systems, outreach services, and the award-winning Farm-2 Library program.

Erica helped plan and schedule Conflict Happens with Mediation Matters sessions in April and May and facilitated an Adult Program Swap in April.

It is hard to believe SALS is entering the final quarter of the OATS Program, which will end before the SALS Board Meeting. Erica, Pamela, and Jack will have an opportunity to share some of the highlights with the SALS Board at a future meeting.

SALS partnered with UHLS and MVLS to present "Getting Started for Friends Groups." Twenty-eight participants representing five public library systems attended the workshop.

Erica also provided new director training to the new directors at Bancroft Salem and Rockwell Falls.

Sara and Erica held a trustee training session with the Cambridge trustees.

SALS, along with representatives from CCLS, MHLS, and STLS, presented on the Path to Belonging at the Public Library Association Conference.

Erica's proposal to host a Path to Belonging workshop at the NYLA Conference in Syracuse has been accepted.

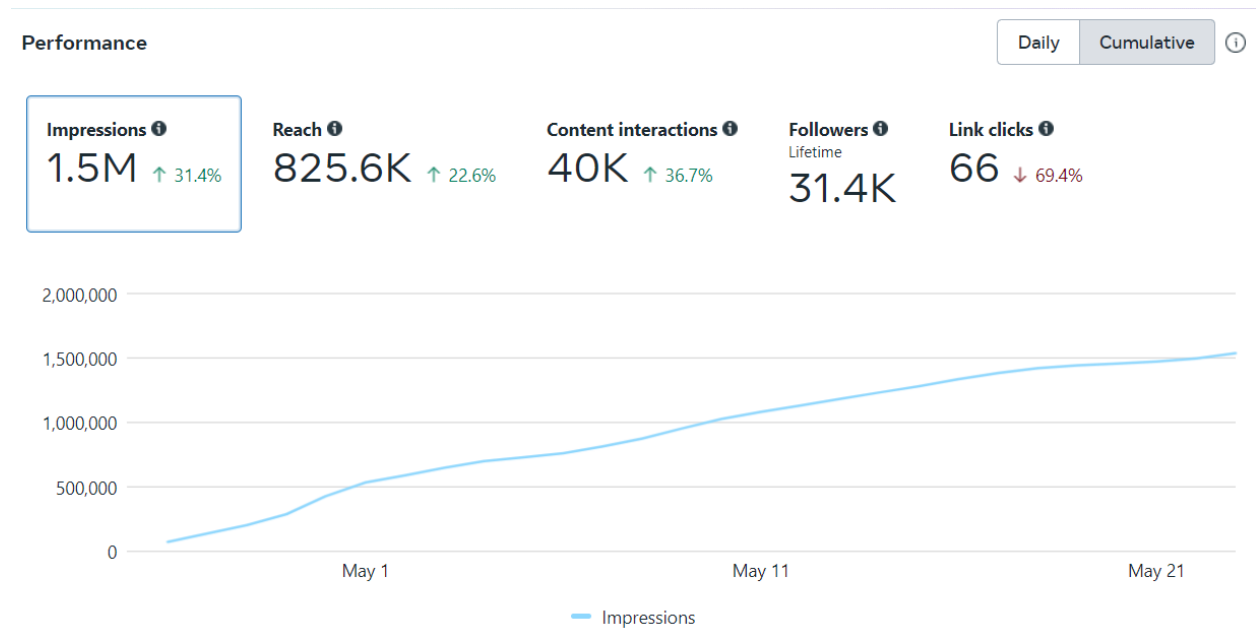
SALS hosted an information session on Hope for Recovery Information session with Adirondack Health Institute on May 31.

Erica worked on an upcoming budget referendum with Mary King, Pember Library & Museum Board President.

She provided information to the Whitehall Free Library director & treasurer about fundraising and sustainable funding through budget referenda.

For those who attended the SALS annual meeting, Erica and Jack Scott created slides that celebrated our members.

The SALS Facebook continues to have strong numbers, with 31.4K followers and 1.5 million impressions in May.



Technology & Youth Services

Our website had 2.4k visitors. The most visited pages were the Joint Automation Project, Job Postings, and the About Us page. The SALS site has a new calendar and a language translation feature on each page. The new Greenwich website went live.

As part of the CDLC's AI Committee, we created an Adventures in AI Challenge for Libraries. [https://cdlc.org/libraries-and-ai/libraries AI challenge](https://cdlc.org/libraries-and-ai/libraries_ai_challenge) Member libraries can receive 2 hours of CE for completing the challenges.

As our member libraries wrapped up our yearlong partnership with Senior Planet to provide Older Adults Technology Services, Jack contacted our representative about the possibility of continuing the partnership. While we will not receive additional funding this year our member libraries will continue to have access to the OATS teaching curriculum and their train-the-trainer program. We will receive our renewal information in late June.

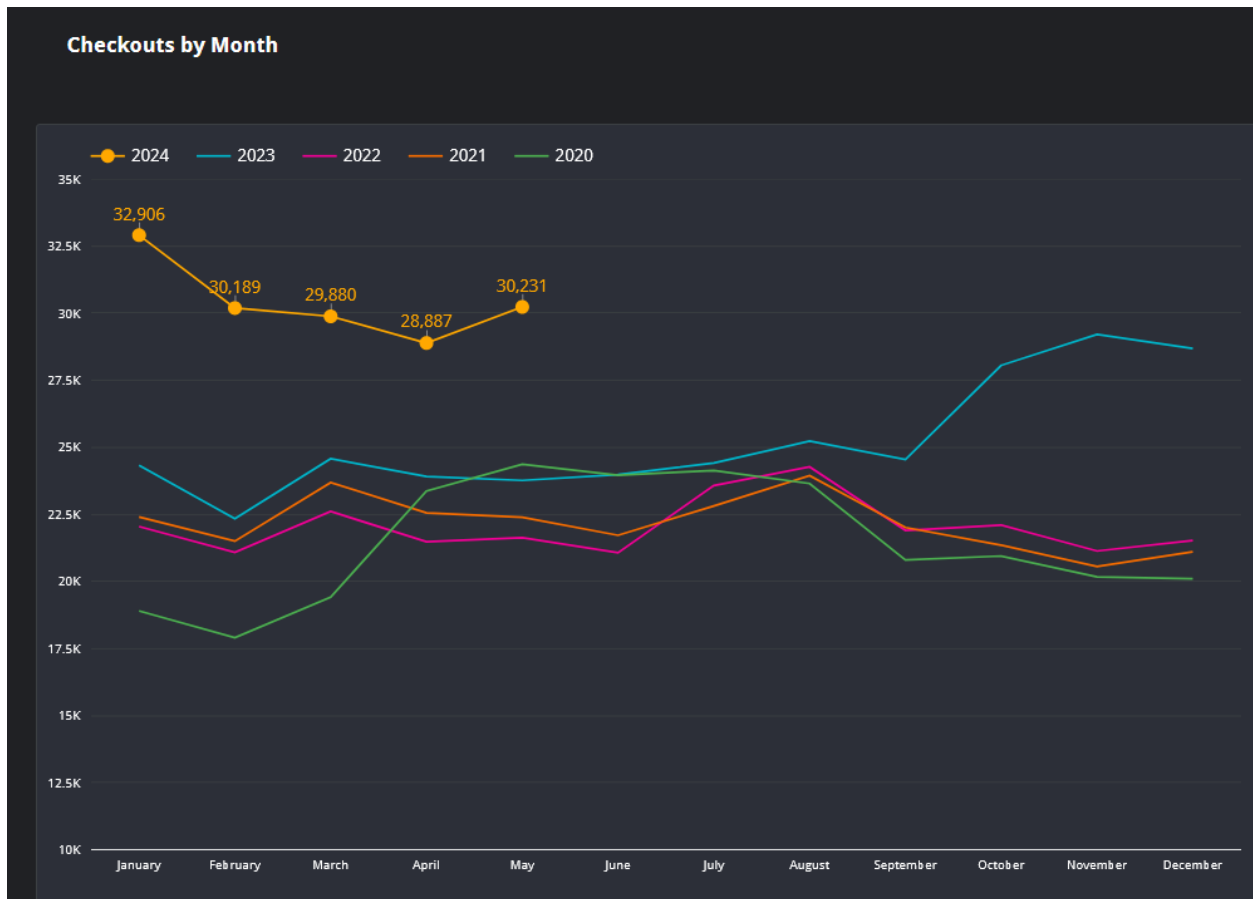
On May 15, Jack visited Rockwell Falls to provide training on using Microsoft Teams and YouTube to record and share their board meetings.

He provided technology training and shared available resources with Jill Diamond at Stony Creek & Melissa Carll at Salem Bancroft.

In April and May, Jack created 23 infographics for member libraries.

In May, Niche Academy had 625 views. The most popular categories and lessons were: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Dealing with Difficult People, Leap Polaris, and Getting to Know the Central Library.

In May, an estimated 29k items were downloaded by 6k users, with 10k holds placed. In April, we borrowed 1,282 items from other systems and shared 461 items with other systems.



Gale was used 3,510 times, and Ancestry had 942 searches.

In May, Jack completed his second term on the School Library Council.

The recordings of the Teen Summer Reading workshop and Children's Summer Reading workshop have each received over 800 views.

In partnership with MVLS and Upper Hudson, SALS presented the 'Greatest of All Time Teen Services' workshop on April 30, with 40 attendees.

Additionally, on April 22, the Youth Services Meet-up discussed plans for Summer Reading, Book and Program Challenges, Early Literacy, and the Science of Reading.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Dallas
June 3, 2024

Meetings

April 18-21, 2024	ALA Executive Board Meeting, Chicago
April 23, 2024	NYLA Spring on the Hill, Albany
April 25, 2024	Trustee Training, Bancroft
May 1, 2024	ALA Executive Director Search
May 8, 2024	JA Meeting
May 9, 2024	Attorney
May 15, 2024	ALA Intellectual Freedom Summit
May 16, 2024	ALA Executive Board Meeting
May 20, 2024	SALS Annual Meeting, Lake George
May 24, 2024	CDLC Board Meeting
	ALA Core Values Interpretation preparation
May 30, 2024	ALA Intellectual Freedom Summit
June 3, 2024	Core Values Interpretation
June 10, 2024	Saratoga Springs Board Visit
June 11, 2024	PULISDO
June 17, 2024	ALA Intellectual Freedom Summit
June 18, 2024	SALS Board Meeting
	ALA Executive Director Search
	Rockwell Falls Board Meeting