

Director Report
December 2023 - January 2024

Administration

SALS received word from the Division of Library Development regarding the recent State Library Aid for Construction applications. Pamela DelSignore, working with the member libraries, made all of the necessary edits, and the applications are ready to be submitted to DASNY.

The SALS 2024 Construction Challenge Grant information was distributed to the member libraries. The completed online application form is due to SALS on April 1, 2024. The SALS Building Committee must review the applications and make recommendations to the full board at its April 2024 meeting.

The New York Library Association's Advocacy Day is scheduled for February 7, 2024. Once again, we will prepare for virtual visits.

The financial asks are as follows:

NYS (New York State) Library Operating Aid: \$147.1M

Increased aid is needed to support the foundational framework of New York State libraries, improving the lives of residents of all ages, abilities, and economic status.

Adequate funding is needed to support school, public, and academic libraries and library systems.

NYS Library Construction Aid: \$69.4M

Increased investment is needed to maintain and develop the physical infrastructure of New York State's libraries to ensure a safe, accessible, and sustainable environment for the future.

The New York State Library estimates that the deferred maintenance needs total over \$1.5B.

Over half of New York's libraries are over 60 years old.

Investments allow libraries to invest in energy efficiency and support the local construction industry.

Increase Rate for Library Materials Aid: \$11.00/pupil

The per pupil rate of \$6.25 has remained stagnant since 2007. We are seeking an increase in the rate to reflect general inflation and the rising materials costs in school libraries.

To keep up to date on the legislative issues and talking points, please see <https://www.nyla.org/2024-legislative-session/?menukey=advocacy>.

This page is updated often.

The SALS Annual Dinner will be held in person on May 20, 2024. It will be held at Fort William Henry in Lake George, NY.

The NYS Board of Regents has appointed three trustees to the Rockwell Falls Public Library. They have taken their oaths of office. An orientation and trustee training sessions are being planned for early January.

The NYS Librarian has praised SALS for its efforts to recruit applicants to fill the vacancies.

Automation/JA

Most of the All-in-One PCs from the end-of-year group PC order have been delivered. The small form factor PCs have arrived, and JA staff is finalizing the images. Once that has been completed, they will be delivered to libraries. The 2024 beginning-of-the-year order will be announced in the early spring.

The November JA Council meeting was canceled. The next meeting is January 10th at MVLS.

SCP has announced they would like Schenectady County IT to take over their IT services for networks, PCs, and all IT other than Polaris support. The JA staff have been communicating with SCP, asking for more plan details. What they are proposing is very different from the arrangements that JA have with the other large libraries, who have local IT staff that work for the library directly. This proposal would essentially outsource IT to a third party, who is not library staff. This presents security challenges for the JA staff, who are very careful about protecting the ILS and patron data. We have requested a meeting with SCP for January to discuss details. A date has not been set.

Michele Largeteau has reached out to Upstate Agency to inquire about the effect of the SCPL IT proposal on the JA/SALS cyber insurance, if we were to proceed.

JA staff have worked with Saratoga Springs Public Library IT staff as they have replaced credit cards devices and self-checks.

The cabling for the remaining libraries for the SALS Meraki grant was completed and all hardware has been installed.

The new Stillwater Public Library building has opened and is beautiful. JA staff have returned a few times to finish work.

JA staff answered questions from Warrensburg regarding MFA.

Information regarding security cameras was provided to staff at Lake George and Pember.

Chris Mundell set up a shared OneDrive space for Greenwich.

JA staff have been reviewing the JA policies. Several small items are outdated, and the JA staff has suggested revisions. Trainers have reviewed and will go to the JA Policy Committee for consideration.

Chris Mundell has provided support and recommendations to Saratoga Springs Public Library staff as they plan to replace servers on their local network. Chris will assist with configuration and setup if they need our help.

The Annual JA Fees meeting was held on December 12, 2023. Fees for 2025 were discussed and a 3.5% increase will be recommended at the January JA Council meeting.

Last week, JA staff discovered that Spectrum was blocking email from any mvls.info address to Spectrum/Roadrunner/Charter addresses. Chris worked hard with Spectrum and Microsoft over vacation and the holiday break to find a resolution. Unfortunately, this was not resolved until December 26th due to the holidays. The problem was due to some other .info addresses on Microsoft 365 sending out lots of spam. Spectrum blocked all .info addresses, and our mvls.info addresses got caught up with the block.

Members of the JA reported and monitored the Saratoga Springs public internet connection outage, working with FirstLight until it was repaired.

JA staff continue visiting the libraries in the eight counties, moving and installing computers and printers, self-checks, and new networks.

There have been 663 SysAid calls since November 1, 2023. The top counts are email, PCs, and Polaris. The most time-consuming calls are those dealing with email, PCs, and Polaris.

Cataloging

The Richards Library has removed fines on most items. Currently, 31 out of 34 SALS libraries are fine or mostly fine-free.

Jill Ryder continues to assist the Rockwell Falls Public Library during the library closure, working with staff to manage interlibrary loan items and Polaris settings.

Jill works with a few libraries to clean up the remaining uncataloged items in their collections. We no longer endorse this legacy practice, as circulating items should be searchable in the online catalog.

Training on how to run library reports and notices was provided by Jill for staff at the Whitehall Free Library.

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

SALS catalogers (Jill Ryder and Johanna Hall) modified a total of 10,194 bibliographic records in the catalog during November and December 2023. A total of 6,022 new bibliographic records and 25,591 new item records were added to the database during the same month. This work is done by cataloging and technical processing staff both at the System offices and the 61 member libraries. Bib records represent the individual works (a book or 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; 486 titles were purchased in November and December 2023. Popular titles purchased include Britney Spears's autobiography [The Woman in Me](#), the fantasy novel [Iron Flame](#) by Rebecca Yarros, and the latest legal thriller from Michael Connelly, [Resurrection Walk](#).

Outreach

Once again, the Farm-2-Library program exceeded expectations. SALS is waiting for the final numbers from our partner, Comfort Food Community, and it is anticipated to break all former records.

Erica Freudenberger is planning the 2024 professional development and training programs.

She reports that SALS has 29.3k followers on Facebook. The most recent post reach is reported to be 2.9 million views. Due to Erica's efforts, SALS is a social influencer.

Erica will be presenting at the PLA National Conference this spring. The program is Path to Belonging.

Technology & Youth Services

Jack Scott continues to assist member libraries in updating their websites (Hudson Falls, Argyle, Lake George, Greenwich, and Pember).

SALS had 1.3K web visits in November. The most visited pages were the Rockwell Falls Trustee page, the Jobs page, and the Calendar.

In November, staff viewed 126 classes. The most popular categories and lessons were Addressing Microaggressions, Tabletop Gaming and 21st Century Skill Development, Ancestry Library—Access Genealogical Records, and Grant Writing Basics Part 1.

There were 8k holds placed in Overdrive in November. 9k magazines were downloaded in November. This is the largest number of titles ever borrowed in a single month. In October, we shared 394 items with other systems and borrowed 934 items.



Jack joined the CDLC AI and Libraries Committee. The committee plans to have a speaker/presentation in the Fall of 2024.

Jack was asked to present a program to Skidmore students about book challenges in our region. The students were surprised about the number and proximity of challenges in our region.

He was asked to be a member of the WSWHE BOCES School Library Automation Review Committee. They are reviewing 4 systems: Accessit, Follett, OPALS, and TLC.

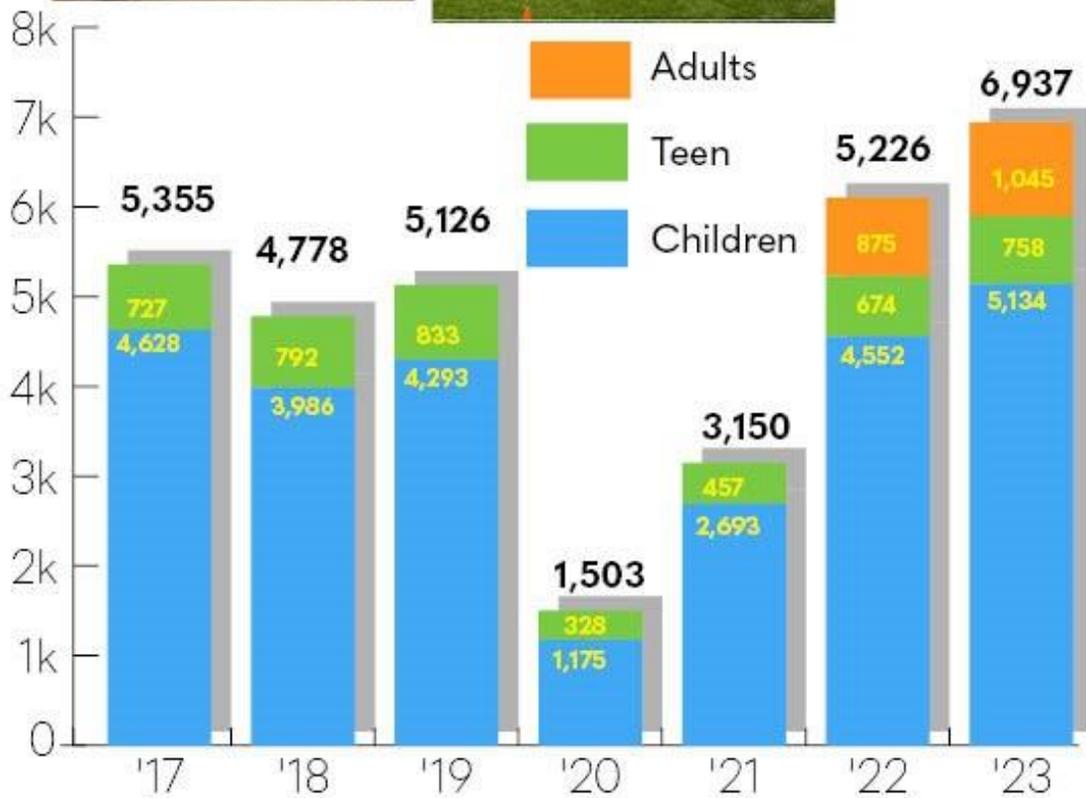
This was a very busy summer throughout the Southern Adirondack Libraries.

Summer Reading 2023

All Together Now

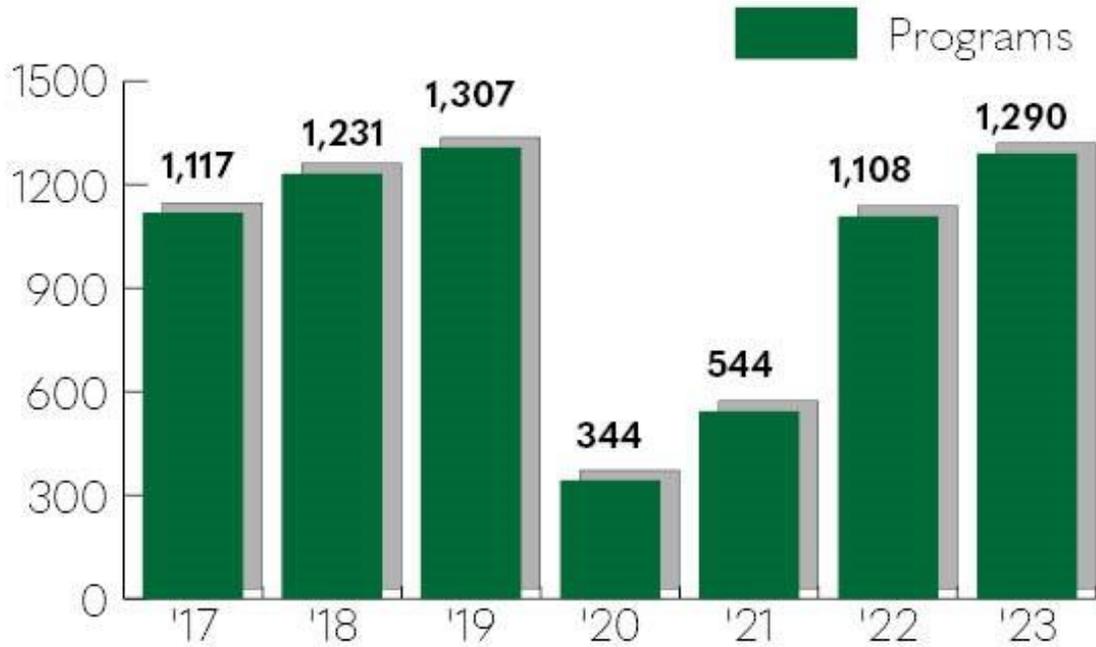


Summer Reading Registration



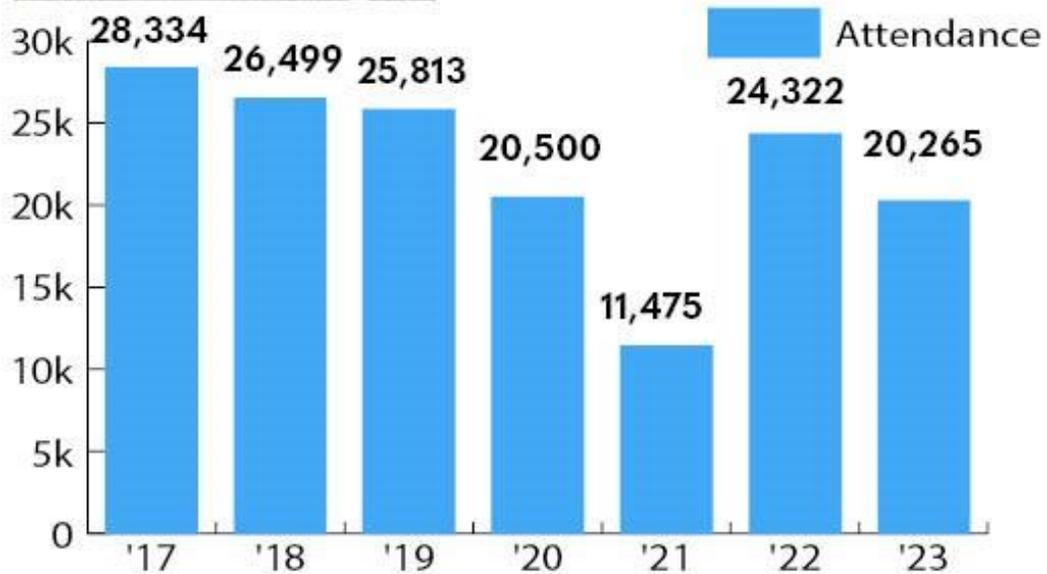
Summer Reading Programs

Number of Programs



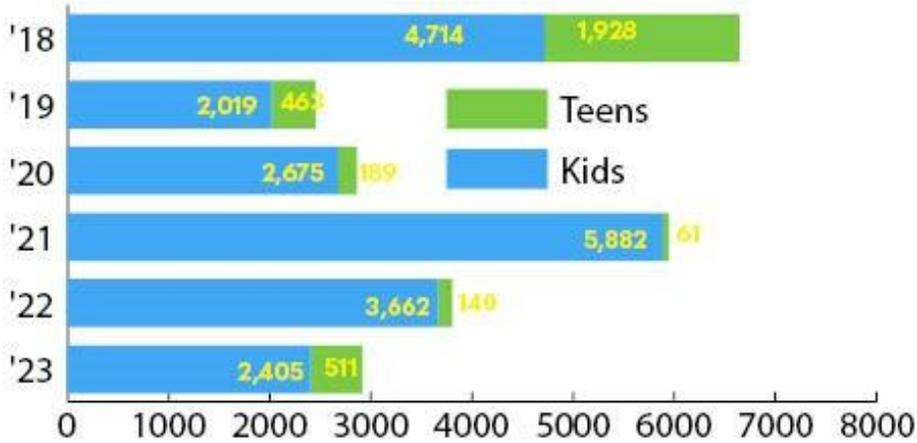
Summer Reading Programs

Program Attendance

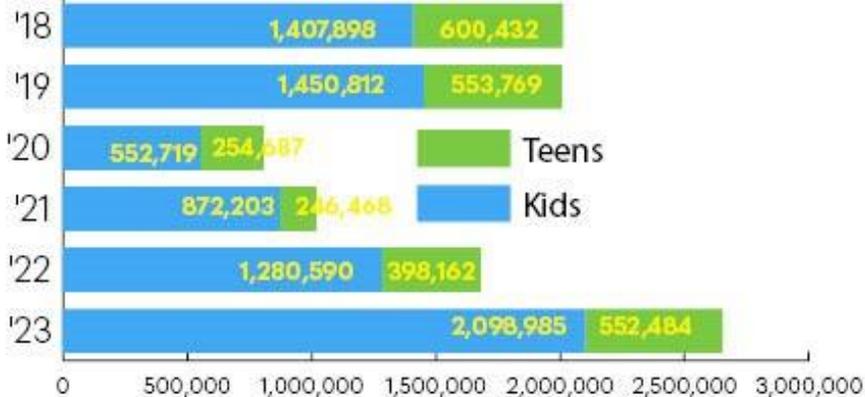


Summer Reading

Books Read



Minutes Read



Meetings

November 30, 2023	ALA Council Virtual Meeting
December 4, 2023	ALA Social Responsibilities Roundtable
December 5, 2023	ALA Executive Board Meeting
December 12, 2023	ALA SSRT
December 15, 2023	ALA Committee on Legislation Retreat
December 18, 2023	ALA Sustainability Task Force
December 20, 2023	Bolton Board Meeting
December 21, 2023	ALA Executive Board Meeting
January 2, 2024	Rockwell Falls new trustee orientation
January 8, 2024	Intellectual Freedom Summit meeting
January 10, 2024	JA meeting at MVLS
January 11, 2024	ALA BARC
January 16, 2024	SALS Board Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Dallas

January 3, 2024