

Director report October - November 2023

Administration

I continue to attend member library Board of Trustees meetings. I answer questions and talk about the mandated trustee training, SALS services, Intellectual Freedom, and the importance of having enforceable, well-written, board-approved policies.

Our libraries are doing incredible work, providing services and resources to their communities.

Pamela DeSignore is working on filling out variances for the three libraries that are not meeting minimum standards. The SALS Board must approve the variances at the November Board meeting. Failure to complete and approve the variances will mean SALS will not receive 10% of its funding (approximately \$19,000).

The Division of Library Development had questions about the submitted library construction applications. Pamela worked with the libraries and submitted updated forms as requested.

In September, Colleen Smith presented new and improved versions of SALS' monthly financial statements to the SALS Board of Trustees, including graphical pie charts of income and expenditures. These reports add additional information, such as the percentage remaining in each budget line, but increase efficiency by utilizing QuickBooks data to create reports rather than manual reports in Excel. The board was pleased with the new format.

Colleen attended Camp Finance on October 12-13. She found the sessions extremely useful and applicable to her daily responsibilities.

I attended NYLA's Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. I was part of a Continuing Education panel presenting library challenges. I also shared information about book challenges throughout the conference. It was lovely sitting with Russ Wise, Carol Kuhr, Jack Scott, Margaret Shapiro, and Faith St. John at the Intellectual Freedom breakfast on Saturday morning.

Carol Kuhr and Erica Freudenberger also presented programs at NYLA.

Adult Services/ Outreach

The OATS cohort met on October 24. Many libraries have begun offering courses, which involve multiple classes, and report remarkable success.

The SALS Friends Council met at 7 pm Tuesday, October 24 to discuss how to use social media to support and promote their efforts. A terrific presentation was made by one of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library Friends.

Erica Freudenberger publishes the e-newsletter, Circulate! to keep member libraries informed about local & national library issues & opportunities. In the past, the e-newsletter has averaged between 1,500-4,000 opens for each issue, but the past couple of issues have found a wider audience.

SALS continues to have a strong media presence on Facebook with 29.3K followers. The past month was particularly strong:

Reach ⓘ

Compare your reach from this period to the previous one.

See more about your content performance

Facebook reach ⓘ

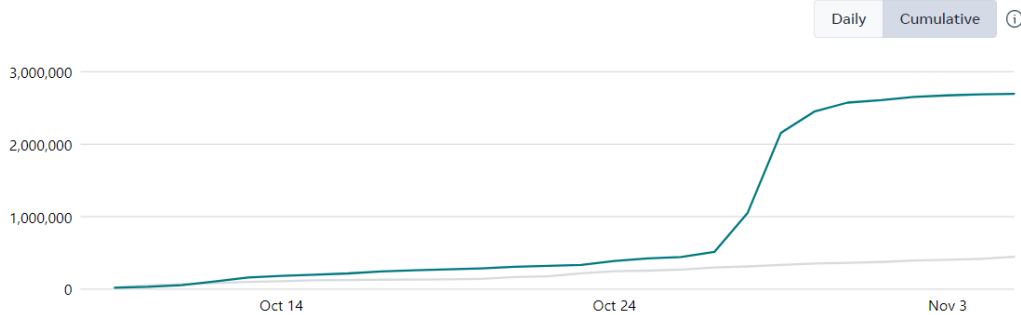
2,695,698 ↑ 503%

Instagram reach ⓘ

4 0%

Paid reach ⓘ

0 0%



This is due to the excellent work being done by Erica. If you are on Facebook, I encourage everyone to join the SALS Facebook page. Erica shares valuable information about libraries and humorous posts and recognizes the importance of cats and dogs in our lives. There have been some groaner puns as well.

Under Erica's leadership, a half-day hybrid retreat was held on October 31 at SALS to advance the work currently being done and begin planning on what potential products would look like.

Automation/JA

The end-of-year group order PCs have arrived, and JA staff are working on updating the images. Equipment will be configured, and libraries will be contacted to set up delivery soon.

Jesse Jensen has started working on the new website for public content from the JA Intranet.

Chris Mundell is still waiting for Adirondack Cabling to schedule wiring for the remaining SALS libraries, waiting for their new Meraki wireless hardware. Easton has been completed, but Ballston Spa, Ballston Community Library, and Greenwich are still on the list.

A person arrived unannounced at one of our libraries, claiming to be from Spectrum, asking for access to their network equipment. This person did not have credentials. The library correctly turned the person away. Chris sent a message to all libraries reminding them never to allow access and to contact us immediately.

Chris sent out an update to users on the progress and improvement in our phishing tests since we started KnowBe4 training at the beginning of the year. Before training, our tests revealed a 17.44% failure rate. As of October, our phish-prone rate has dropped to 2.9%. All users will be required to complete specific phishing training annually, and we are doing concise security training a few times a year.

A new virtual server was bought to replace one that went out of warranty. Chris and Dave MacFarland collaborated to configure and deploy the new server and decommission the older one.

Chris finally got answers from Frontier about the discrepancies on the Raquette Lake and Indian Lake bills.

A reminder was sent to the larger libraries about Windows Server 2012 no longer being supported.

The new Stillwater building is moving along. The library will be closed the week of November 6th and plans to re-open in the new building on Tuesday, November 14th. Chris is working with Adirondack Cabling to complete the wiring and Spectrum for the new internet connection. The network equipment, including wireless, will be installed, and JA staff will set up computers and printers during the closure.

Jesse was able to fix the best-seller links on the PAC (a ticket that was open for a long time).

Jason Thomson has been working with Saratoga as they install new self-checks to replace their existing ones.

The JA staff assisted with the MFA setup for Corinth.

Jason, Dave, and Jesse attended a demonstration at Schenectady County Public Library of MyPC and print products on October 5, 2023.

There have been 334 SysAid calls since the end of September 2023. The top counts are calls about email, PCs, and Polaris. The most time-consuming calls are Polaris, PCs, and email.

Cataloging and Technical Services

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 remaining uncatalogued items in their collections. This was a legacy practice that we no longer endorse, as circulating items should be searchable in the online catalog.

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 all Polaris questions that arise.

SALS catalogers (Jill Ryder and Johanna Hall) modified 3,355 bibliographic records in the catalog during October 2023. Three thousand three hundred seventy-one new bibliographic records and 14,387 new item records were added to the database during the same month. This work is done by cataloging and technical processing staff 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; 232 titles were purchased in October 2023. Popular titles purchased include Stephen King's thriller Holly, Riley Sager's gothic novel The Only One Left, and the haunting true-life murder mystery Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann.

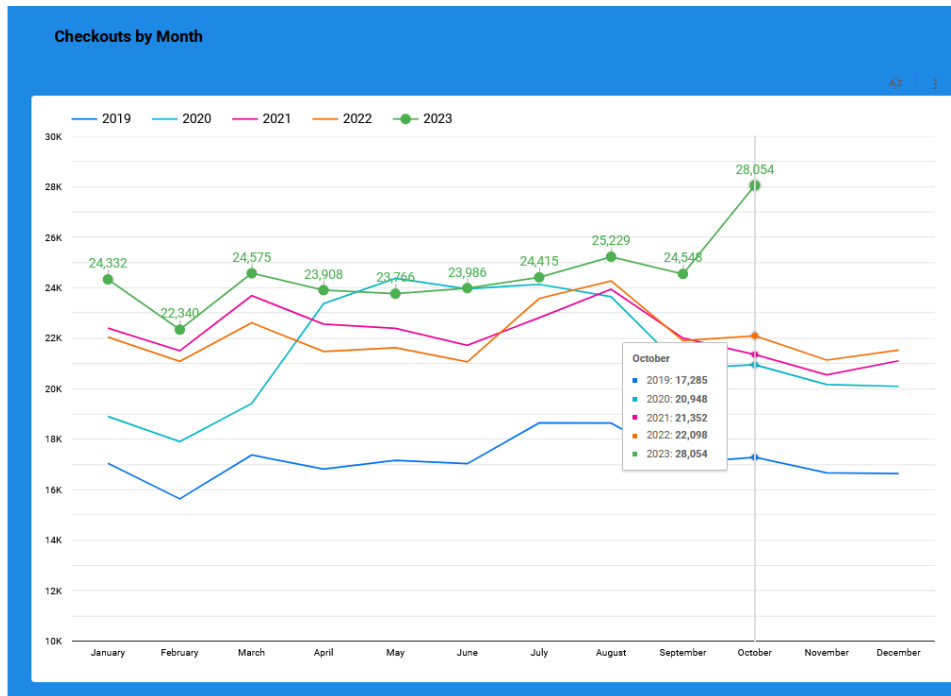
Technology and Youth Services

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

He reports the monthly statistics for the SALS Website. There were 2.7K web visits in October. The most visited pages were Calendar, Jobs, About Us, and Cataloging.

The Niche Academy is a welcome addition to the SALS website. In October, staff viewed 700 classes. The most popular categories and lessons are Microsoft Office —Excel, Computer Basics, the Central Library, and Microsoft Office —Word.

In October, Overdrive saw an estimated 28k items downloaded by 6k users, with 8k holds. There were 8k magazines downloaded in October. This is the largest number of titles ever borrowed in a single month. In September, SALS shared 465 items with other systems and borrowed 932 items.



The GALE databases saw 1570 sessions in September.

Youth Services:

Jack submitted the SALS Summer Reading numbers to NYS. He will have a full report for the next board meeting, but in general, it was a successful summer at member libraries. Jack is sharing some of the comments:

“We witnessed a substantial increase in kids and families coming to the library post-pandemic. More kids than ever were coming into the library to do activities, report on reading and just hang out. It was a successful summer and all of our planning and outreach paid off!” -Hudson Falls

“We have two sisters who fell in love with the library through the summer reading program! They were always readers, but once they started coming to the teen program they became library regulars. They had previously gone to school outside of town, and coming to teen

programs allowed them to make the transition to public school with friends they made at the library.” -Stillwater

“A little girl and her family would come in all summer to get books to read to her. She was incredibly shy at first and would not look, speak, or even walk around the library. She now runs over to our picture book section, picks out a book and brings it up to me with a big smile on her face. The best thing was definitely seeing a child become comfortable and actually enjoy spending time in our library.” -Stony Creek

“We had one child who had reading problems. He was enrolled in a summer challenged reader program. This child was allowed to pick his own reading materials for our Summer Reading program. At the end of the summer he had read more books than the other children and keeps coming in to take out more.” -Town of Chester

Jack attended the Rural Library Roundtable meeting held in Lake George. It was a great meeting, the main topic discussed was building community partners.

He attended the School Library Council meeting held at the WSWHE BOCES office. During the meeting, the Salem Bancroft school librarian thanked SALS for providing Messages from Survivors. Classes have been visiting the exhibit at the public library. Another takeaway from the meeting was that school libraries are receiving many book challenges.

Jack met with Mary Fellows, from the Upper Hudson Library System, and Beth Rienti, from the Mohawk Valley Library System, to discuss potential collaborative projects in 2024. We are going to work together on a few workshops, including GOATS2024 (Greatest Of All Time Teen Services workshop) and a Nuts & Bolts Summer Reading Workshop.

SALS will be participating with at least 8 other library systems to provide two days of virtual Summer Reading programs, one for children’s programs and one for teen programs. This will be the third year in a row that we will provide this virtual program. The children’s program last year had 909 views on our YouTube channel and the teen program has 490 views.

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner visited SALS for the library director’s council; it was an excellent opportunity to share some of the fantastic services the member libraries provide. Assemblywoman Woerner not only represents the Assembly’s 113 District but is also Chair of the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology.

SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY SYSTEM

Your support makes a difference

MESSAGES FROM SURVIVORS

Local libraries collaborate with nearby schools, local speakers, and Skidmore, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback.



FAMILY PHOTO

Local libraries collaborate with nearby schools, local speakers, and Skidmore, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback.



SOME

Checklist for the library...

PARTNERS

13 Libraries
Skidmore
WMHT

Currently at:

- Bancroft
- Crandall
- Long Lake

OLDER ADULTS TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

"I have worked with my hands for 40 years. I can't do this stuff." The librarian at the desk convinced him to stay for the first class. When practicing mouse skills his comment was "I didn't think I could do this stuff, but I can! I gotta admit I surprised myself."

A partnership with AARP, Senior Planet & OATS

- 9 Participating Libraries
- 157 Sessions scheduled
- 320 Registered Participants



SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY SYSTEM

Your support makes a difference

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Local school and library challenges. Soft Challenges (e.g., Scholastic removing books from School Book Fairs).



SUMMER READING LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

We witnessed a substantial increase in kids and families coming to the library post pandemic. More kids than ever were coming into the library for programs, reading and hanging out.



FARM TO LIBRARY

14,809 people have enjoyed sharing 34,986 lbs of food through our 13 libraries, most of which are in rural food deserts.

A new patron with little kids just called the program a lifesaver (Schuylerville)



COMMUNITY HEALTH

13 member libraries house NaloxBoxes providing free Naloxone to support community health.

The Saratoga Springs & Schuylerville libraries also provide fentanyl test strips



- Meetings:
- Oct 18-25, 2023
 - Oct 26, 2023
 - Oct 27, 2023
 - Nov 1-4, 2023
 - Nov 6, 2023
 - Nov 14, 2023
 - Nov 16, 2023
 - Nov 20, 2023
 - Nov 21, 2023

- Vacation
- NYLA CE co-presenters
- Virtual presentation for the Southern Tier Library System
- NYLA Annual Conference – Saratoga Springs, NY
- Memory Project – Mechanicville
- Salem Board Meeting
- Inlet Board Meeting
- Director's Council
- SALS Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted

Sara Dallas
11/6/2023