

SALS (Southern Adirondack Library System) Directors Report March – April 2024

Administration

As April approaches, there is no 24-25 NYS budget in place. I am cautiously optimistic libraries will see an increase in funding. Nothing is finalized until the budget is passed and signed.

Every year, I look forward to attending the Easton Library's Annual Meeting. It was a wonderful celebration of the outstanding work being done by the library's staff, board, and friends. Helen Brownell, the former library director, spoke about Mary Jane Connor's amazing accomplishments. She is retiring from the board after years of outstanding service. Attending this event reminded me about the power and wonder of libraries in our communities.

The Division of Library Development has approved all member library annual reports.

Colleen Smith is coordinating the registration for the Traliant Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. She is also preparing the AUD (report to the NYS Comptroller).

She also renewed SALS' entity registration in SAM.gov. A SAM registration is required to work as a federal contractor or subcontractor and for nonprofits to receive grants. Colleen also completed the annual Mandatory Federal Premium Reporting for NYSHIP.

Colleen was asked to join NYCON's MAC (Member Advisory Council) and attended its first meeting on Feb. 27, 2024. The next meetings are scheduled for May and September.

She submitted the AFR (Annual Financial Report) to the NYS Office of the Comptroller.

The first semi-annual group barcode label orders for MVLS (Mohawk Valley System) and SALS libraries were completed. Eleven libraries ordered 25,000 barcode labels.

Pamela DeSignore is currently updating all member library trustee emails in preparation for sending invitations to the SALS Annual Dinner and ensuring that all trustees have current addresses when sending information.

Pamela has sent out the Save-the-Date email for the Annual dinner. Invitations and reservation requests will be sent out on April 1, 2024, and the notice of the Annual Meeting will be sent out on April 20, 2024.

The Personnel Committee and the Building Committee will receive the program of the year, trustee of the year, and construction challenge applications during the first week of April.

All SALS member libraries have returned signed JA (Joint Automation) Agreements. Russ Wise will need to sign them, and they will be sent to MVLS.

Jordan Hornstein and I are still looking for potential Hamilton County residents to fill the upcoming vacancy on the SALS Board of Trustees. All trustees are reminded that Russ will need to appoint an Officer Nominating Committee immediately following the annual meeting in even-numbered years, which will establish a slate of Officers for election by the board at the first regularly scheduled meeting following the annual meeting. Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted. If there is more than one candidate per office, voting shall be done by written ballot. Membership on this committee shall not prohibit nomination for office.

The Schenectady County Public Library has chosen to leave the POLARIS ILS (Integrated Library System), which has existed for over 41 years. Many, if not all, of the SALS staff have been working to make the transition smooth and provide the necessary data within the six-month timeframe. I want to share my gratitude and appreciation with all the JA and SALS staff for their time and work.

Automation/JA

Michele Largeteau reports that the JA staff has been preparing for the Schenectady County Public Library's withdrawal from POLARIS and scheduling the transition team meetings.

A Polaris ILS upgrade (two versions 7.4 and 7.5) to be done overnight on April 16-17, 2024.

JA staff is gathering quotes for the first group PC order of 2024.

She is working on the renewal of SALS and JAs (Joint Automation) cyber security insurance

The new humidifier was installed on the computer room AC but there was a faulty solenoid, so TBS/Stark is waiting for a replacement solenoid

Cataloging

Jill Ryder has been working on the SCPL (Schenectady County Public Library) withdrawal transition team, assisting in drafting messages and creating a plan for SCPL's departure from the Polaris ILS.

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 3,850 bibliographic records in the catalog during March 2024. 3,176 new bibliographic records and 12,565 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 48-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 purchase of eBooks and eAudiobooks for the shared OverDrive collection; 140 titles were purchased in March 2024. Popular titles purchased include Anna Quindlen's newest novel, *After Annie*; Ali Hazelwood's paranormal romance *Bride*; and Tessa Bailey's rom-com *Fangirl Down*.

Outreach

Erica Freudenberger reports working with member library trustees and staff throughout March. The Pember Library and the Whitehall Library called to ask about potential Chapter 259 Budget Referendums; she provided new director training for Marion Allan, the new director at the Rockwell Falls Public Library. In addition, she worked with the Waterford Public Library about retaining contractors for programs, Notary Public training opportunities with Rockwell Falls, and design programs for the Long Lake Library.

The Diffusing Conflict Before It Flares Up: The first in a three-part Conflict Happens series of interactive workshops, led by Jim Fitzgerald from Mediation Matters, was well received. 58 attendees attended.

Erica has been working on *Path to Belonging: Equity Framework for Small and Rural Libraries*. They have begun building out the website, and she will present it at the PLA (Public Library Association) conference in Columbus, Ohio.

She helped launch the *Bloomin' 4 Good* Campaign with Hannaford in March 2024. Under Erica's creative hand, literary-themed weekly posts were on the SALS Facebook page, featuring notables like Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Jane Austen extolling the joy of purchasing flowers.

Rockwell Falls Public Library is participating again in the Farm-2-Library program.

In March 2024, Erica reported that one of her posts went viral:

Top-performing organic posts

Here are posts that have performed well over the last 90 days. Understanding what's working can help you decide what to create and share next, so you can keep up the great work.

Highest reach on a post ⓘ

 Facebook post
Artist: Richard Scarry
Mar 6, 2024, 8:11 AM

This post's reach (1,517,890) is **26,986%** higher than your median post reach (5,604) on Facebook.

Highest reactions on a post ⓘ

 Facebook post
Artist: Richard Scarry
Mar 6, 2024, 8:11 AM

This post received **26,430%** more reactions (59,161 reactions) than your median post (223 reactions) on Facebook.

Highest comments on a post ⓘ

 Facebook post
Artist: Richard Scarry
Mar 6, 2024, 8:11 AM

This post received **31,429%** more comments (4,414 comments) than your median post (14 comments) on Facebook.

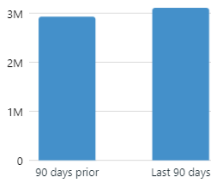
That post and others led to March setting some new records, and our page reached 3.1 million viewers.

Reach

Post reach ⓘ

3.1M ↑ 6.1%

Total from last 90 days vs 90 days prior



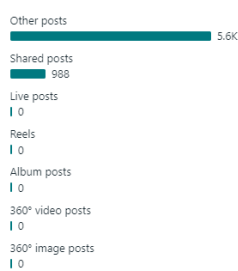
Median post reach per media type ⓘ

For posts created in the last 90 days



Median post reach per content format ⓘ

For posts created in the last 90 days

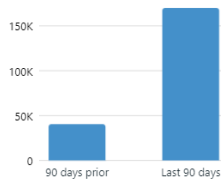


Engagement

Post reactions, comments and shares ⓘ

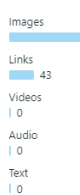
169.9K ↑ 320.3%

Total from last 90 days vs 90 days prior



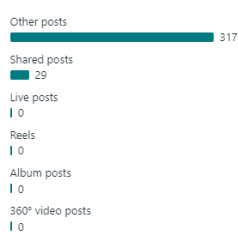
Median post reactions, comments and shares per media type ⓘ

For posts created in the last 90 days



Median post reactions, comments and shares per content format ⓘ

For posts created in the last 90 days

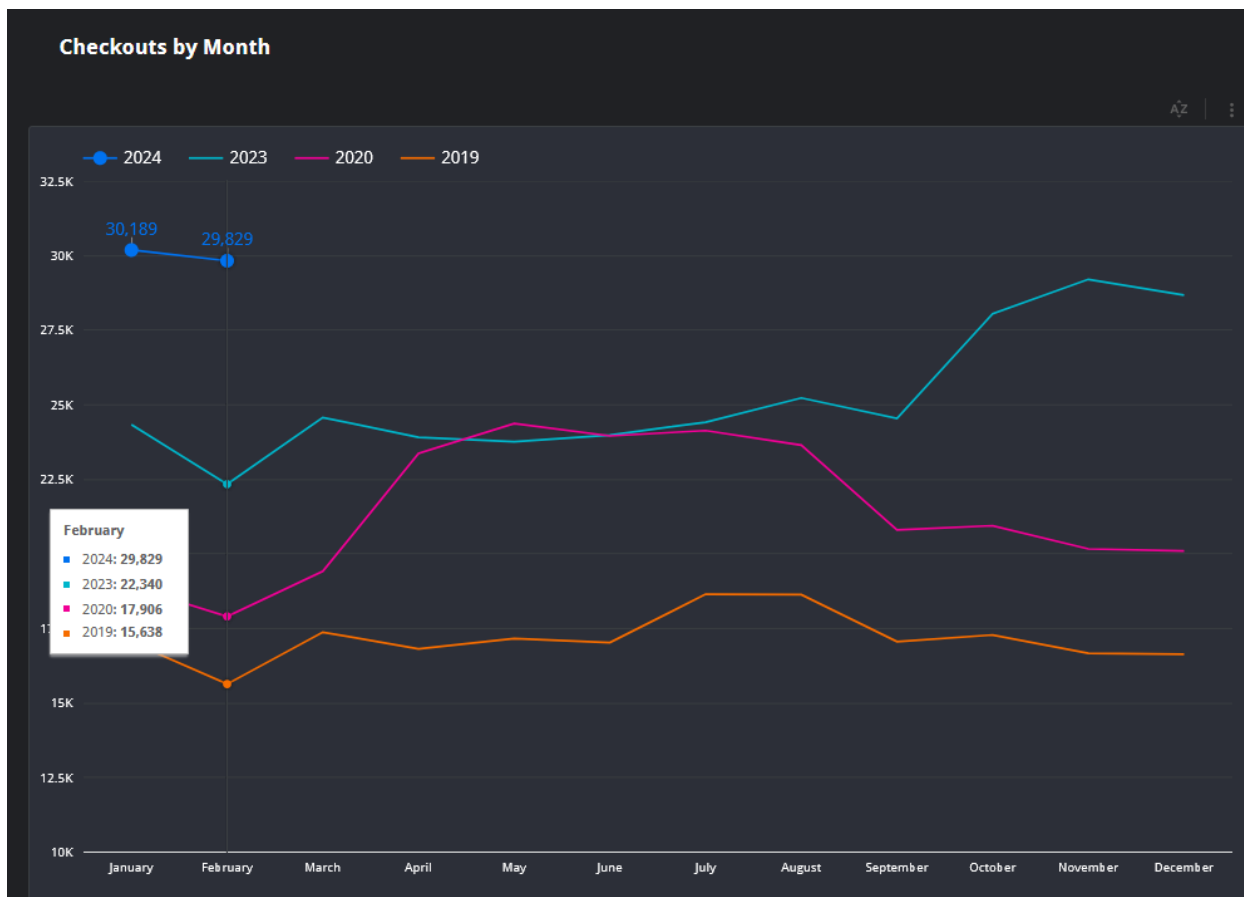


ITEMS WITH OTHER SYSTEMS IN OVERVIEW.

pages were the Joint Automation

popular categories and lessons were It People, Microsoft Word,

by 6.8k users, with 10.5k holds other systems and shared 422



GALE: In February Gales was used 1,559 times.

Ancestry: In February, there were 1,014 searches.

The Teen Summer Reading workshop was held on March 13. 183 people attended the virtual program. In partnership with MVLS and Upper Hudson, the three systems are presenting a Greatest of All Time Teen services workshop on April 30. 46 people have registered so far. On March 8, Jack Scott visited Skidmore and presented to a library class on Intellectual Freedom in our part of New York State.

Meetings

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|----------------|---|
| March 21, 2024 | ALA Executive Board Meeting |
| March 25, 2024 | Easton Annual Meeting |
| April 1, 2024 | ALA Intellectual Freedom Summit planning |
| April 5, 2024 | SUNY CUAD Awards Jury |
| April 15, 2024 | Spring Virtual ALA BARC and Finance and Audit |

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Dallas
April 1, 2024

