
MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Member Library Trustee Newsletter Fall/Winter 2018

Libraries in the News

Intriguing services offered in NYS public libraries

MVLS' neighbor to the east, the Upper Hudson Library System, has launched a wonderful program designed to get people to visit libraries. They developed a passport and marketing strategy to encourage people to visit all 36 library buildings in the Upper Hudson Library System. Scott Jarzombek, Director of the Albany Public Library, took up the challenge and in a recent Times Union blog post shares the experience of visiting many of the libraries with his children. He identifies many different attributes that make the libraries inviting and a pleasure to visit. You can read the blog post at: <https://blog.timesunion.com/scotti/are-you-a-36er/394/>.

What makes your library a joy for your visitors? What makes your visitors and users feel welcome, engaged and valued? What changes might your library implement to become more welcoming and inviting? What reasons are there for people to visit and use your library? Would an outside visitor feel welcome at your library?

Calendar of Events

Opportunities for continuing education and input

Thu Dec 6, 2018,	9:30 – 11:30	Book Pics From Two Book Divas Workshop
Mon Dec 10, 2018	10:00 – 11:30	Ingraham Vendor Meeting
Wed Dec 12, 2018	9:30 – 10:30	JA 2020 Fees Meeting at CPH
Wed Jan 9, 2019	9:30 – 10:30	JA Council Meeting at SALS
Thu Jan 10, 2019	9:30 – 11:30	Communications & the State Annual Report
Wed Jan 16, 2019	10:00 – 2:00	Supercharged Storytimes at Guilderland
Thu Jan 17, 2019	9:30 – 11:30	Adult Program Swop at UHLS
Thu Jan 17, 2019	9:30 – 11:00	MVLS Board of Trustees Meeting
Thu Feb 7, 2019	9:30 – 3:30	Summer Reading Program Workshop
Wed Feb 27, 2019	All Day	NYLA Library Advocacy Day

You can always find the full MVLS Calendar

at: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=mvls%40mvls.info&ctz=America/New_York

Keep in mind that workshops may require pre-registration. See www.mvls.info for details.

What's My Job - Trustee Training

Information on how to be an outstanding library trustee

The end of the year is often a time when library trustees look back on the positive developments of the year gone by; and it is pleasant to bask in the rosy glow of success. Every library experiences some form of success every day and we all need to learn to be more effective in publicizing and celebrating that success. But every library also falls short. When that happens, one of the trustee's responsibilities is to ask why. What are the barriers that prevent the library from being as successful as it could be?

The unfortunate fact is that the root issue is often money. The library lacks the funding to: provide the collections, classes or events that the community needs, or to provide the spaces for more effective collections and programs, or for the increased staffing that would make more services possible. The MVLS 21st Century Library Initiative is designed to help libraries identify the root causes that limit library success, and to develop strategies for mitigating those limits. All libraries are encouraged to use the 21st Century Libraries Initiative to help make the library more visible and effective. For more information on the Initiative, see: <https://www.mvls.info/21st-century-libraries/>

It is common for library trustees to concentrate on providing the best service they can under the circumstances. But sometimes, to be really effective, we need to change the circumstances. That's what the 21st Century Library Initiative is designed to do.

MVLS offers trustee training several times a year, and we are happy to work with individual library boards on trustee training. There are a variety of 45 minute sessions on topics from a basic overview to finances, legal issues and planning. Contact Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or etrahan@mvls.info for more information or to schedule a session at your library.

Policy Update

Help in keeping your policies current

Library Circulation Policies are scheduled for an update this year. Every library needs policies that address library cards, loan periods, fines, patron privacy, etc. MVLS has a wealth of information on each of these topics to help library directors and boards develop meaningful policies on the loaning of library materials.

The issuing of library cards is partly covered in the MVLS Free Direct Access Plan that every library approved. See the plan at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/MVLS-2017-Free-Direct-Access-Plan.pdf>

The MVLS Circulation Guidelines, developed through a discussion among all member libraries, provide guidance on loan periods, fines etc. These guidelines are at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CirculationProcessingGuidelines-1-2017.pdf>

Patron Privacy is covered in the Joint Automation Security Policy found at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MVLS-SALS-Security-Policy.pdf>

Library user confidentiality is covered in NYS Civil Practice Law. <https://newyork.public.law/laws/n.y.civil.practice.law.section.4509>

Other circulation policy ideas will be covered in future issues

MVLS is always available to assist libraries with policy development. Call or email Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or etrahan@mvls.info for more information.

MVLS Serves Member Libraries

Highlighting services that can help your library

MVLS can often offer libraries opportunities to participate in grant projects and other collaborative initiatives and activities. The Library Moon Walk is a joint initiative of the Mohawk Valley, Upper Hudson, and Southern Adirondack Library systems, funded by a grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. It has three objectives:

1. Provide access to authoritative health information to the public through in-person training for information professionals on resources available through the National Network of Libraries of Medicine
2. Build relationships with local community health organizations to offer programs for the public
3. Encourage healthy communities through the Library Moon Walk Challenge. People can self-report exercise on the website: <https://librarymoonwalk.sals.edu>

These highlights provide just a few examples of the services that MVLS provides to member libraries. For information on any MVLS service see the website at www.mvls.info, email Eric at etrahan@mvls.info or call 355-2010.

The Library of the Future

Interesting articles for library trustees to ponder

Public libraries have changed dramatically in the last 10 years. Wireless access, e-books, e-audio and e-magazines are just some examples of changes from the last decade. And while new resources and services have appeared other things have gone by the wayside. Videocassettes are a thing of the past, streaming music services have put an end to most library music collections, and personal devices are even starting to affect library computer use. What's next?

A recent blog post, <https://medium.com/snippet/the-public-library-of-2027-50eabd05b8c2>, makes a variety of predictions about what may change in public libraries by 2027. While predicting the future is always risky, some of the broad trends identified ring true with local developments in MVLS libraries. Here's a brief rundown of some possible changes for libraries in the next 10 years:

- Public libraries will be less about information, and more about knowledge or wisdom
- More specialized services may be offered – career development, local research, etc.
- Libraries will become a valued space to foster community interactions

What do you think the future will bring to your library?

This newsletter is a service for the library trustees that serve the 14 member libraries of the Mohawk Valley Library System. All newsletter issues are archived at <http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/newsletter/> MVLS educates, empowers and supports public libraries in Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties, helping libraries enrich their communities.



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