
MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM

MVLS Director's Update June 2024

Vision and Knowledge for Secure Futures

Ideas for keeping your library well funded and valued

"You could write a grant for that." Grants are great. I have written dozens of grants for libraries, and MVLS offers many grant opportunities to member libraries looking for funding for special projects. MVLS also regularly posts about the grant opportunities available to libraries. Grants are a perfect option for developing new services, filling temporary gaps, and for capital expenses. But they are not a sustainable option for library operating costs.

Does your library need help in finding a sustainable solution for your operating budget? Do you feel stuck with a budget that doesn't fully meet your community's needs? MVLS can help you find a positive way forward. Maybe part of the solution is in submitting a MVLS Library Advocacy Grant (<https://mvslibraryfoundation.wordpress.com/grants/>).

Foundation for Mohawk Valley Libraries/MVLS Advocacy Grants can be used for any community engagement activities that are geared toward sustainable operating funding for member libraries. Contact Eric or Wade with any questions about library advocacy and community engagement.

Skills, Tools and Resources for Serving All

Resources and services that help libraries serve all

As an outcome of the recent MVLS Spring Symposium, there are two new links on the MVLS website that are designed to help member libraries know how to better use the resources available through MVLS. The MVLS Staff page (<https://www.mvls.info/mvls-staff/>) now contains additional information to guide libraries in identifying the right MVLS staff member to respond to any inquiry. Have a question? Ask the MVLS staff!

The second new page on the MVLS website is the [MVLS Menu of Services](#). This outline is designed to answer the question "what can MVLS do for my library." There are many MVLS services that member libraries can access. Find the ones that can have an impact in your library!

Most MVLS services involve MVLS providing support services, training, or collaboration. But there are also instances in which MVLS provides direct programming in libraries. Technology classes and presentations are offered periodically, and assistance is offered to help libraries become comfortable with the various program kits that are available for borrowing. See a list of possibilities at: <https://www.mvls.info/program-resources/>.

Collaboration and Resource Sharing for Outstanding Library Service

Celebrating and sharing the collective expertise in MVLS libraries

Each summer for the last several years, MVLS has worked with member libraries to develop a collaborative element of the annual Summer Reading Program. In most years, this effort begins with exciting ideas developed in libraries, like the Fairies & Gnomes project that originated in Schoharie, and the Library Passport effort that came out of Amsterdam. In 2024, the Fort Plain Free Library developed the concept of trading cards as summer reading incentives, and MVLS and the libraries worked to bring that concept to every MVLS member library for the 2024 Summer Reading Program. More information on the Summer Reading Program can be found here: <https://www.mvls.info/youth-services-summer-reading-program/>.

MVLS GO! provides each library with a selection of unique, professionally printed trading cards that summer reading participants can collect as they participate in library activities and complete reading goals. Each card features a picture, information on the library, and a QR code for more information. They become a long-term connection to the library for all summer program participants.

Thanks to the Fort Plain Free Library for sharing this great idea to promote libraries and summer reading.

Inspiration for Telling the Library Story

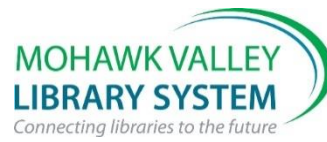
Tips for highlighting your library's impact

Most good stories need a hook. "Libraries Change Lives!" is one that I have used many times. "Libraries are Education!" and "Libraries are for Everyone" are two more that are on display right here in my office. The ALA Libraries Transform Initiative (<https://ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/>) offers many tag lines that libraries can use to inform the community about the importance of library services.

Recently, the American Library Association developed a new iteration of library core values. Those values: Access, Equity, Intellectual Freedom & Privacy, Public Good, and Sustainability, can provide a powerful framework for telling stories about the value of libraries. Here is a more detailed overview of those library core values: www.ala.org/advocacy/advocacy/intfreedom/corevalues

Could you use help in developing stories that highlight your library's role in promoting the core values that define library service? You can contact MVLS any time for help with communications issues and initiatives.

This update is a service for the library trustees that serve the 14 member libraries of the Mohawk Valley Library System. MVLS serves communities by empowering libraries. The MVLS Vision – our ultimate goal - is for all MVLS libraries to be cherished as community anchors with secure futures. Libraries are models of good governance and efficient management; they provide education, entertainment, and events, and serve as a nexus for collaborating and building community. This update document is organized based on the four MVLS goals that support this mission and vision.



Mohawk Valley Library System
858 Duanesburg Rd.
Schenectady, NY 12306
[\(518\)355-2010](tel:(518)355-2010)
mvls-director@mvls.info
www.mvls.info