



State of Vermont
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TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Jason Broughton State Librarian / Commissioner of Libraries
DATE: January 28th, 2020
SUBJECT: Programs and Projects by the Department of Libraries

New England State Libraries will provide Management Training for Small and Rural Libraries: The Department in coordination with other NE State Libraries will offer - Managing Small and Rural Libraries: How to Balance Patrons, Responsibilities, Community Organizations and Facilities. In these events--open to any library employee at no cost--experienced librarians will use both conceptual and concrete examples to help you manage your library effectively and efficiently.

Promotion and Inclusion of Vermont Public Libraries in Firefox & Chrome web browser extensions for local library holdings: Library Extension is a browser extension that will allow users to instantly view local library books and eBook availability as compared to searching across library catalogs or websites. Fifty-three public libraries across Vermont are planning to participate in having Library Extension provide information about their holdings as a public service and financial savings to Vermonters.

The Department of Libraries will offer Updated Narcan / Opioid Workshops for public libraries for Winter/ Spring 2020: VTLIB, Dominion Diagnostics, and the Howard Center will host discussions centering on the impact of opioids in VT, the signs of opioid overdose, community resources for helping patrons and families, the safe administration of Narcan, and policy issues and considerations for library directors and trustees.

Community Service Partnership with Spaulding High School & the ABLE Library: Spaulding High School's Community Service requirement challenges students to expand their definition of "community" to involve a larger portion of their world than just their school or their family. Participating students will work one to two hours after school within the ABLE Library to understand the needs of visually impaired or differently abled Vermonters.

Participating in a national conversation on barriers to library services based upon library fines: The Dept of Libraries will participate in a webinar with other State Libraries and regional leaders who are seeking ways to inform libraries about the facts, pros, cons, and considerations of library fines and their impacts to library services as well as the benefits and strategies for elimination.

Fletcher Free Library was open on Christmas Day!: The Fletcher Free Library in Burlington opened its doors from 12:00pm to 4:00pm for opportunities to celebrate Christmas, offer those in the community to connect with fellow Vermonters, and ensure connections with those who might be isolated during the holidays. The State Librarian was in attendance!



Updates on attending the Partnership for Diversity & Fairness Summit (LIB): A plan of action was created amongst the State Library Staff, Vermont Library Association President, and Brattleboro Public Library Director on tentative statewide areas the Department of Libraries could implement for libraries in across Vermont.

Topic Areas: Equality, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity:

- 1) Conduct more work in training libraries to support the upcoming census. Last week's discussions led us to think about doing that through a lens of equity, as there are many populations our libraries serve that would be adversely affected if they were not accurately reflected in the census (*people experiencing rural poverty, people of color*).
- 2) Scheduling the Vermont State Data Center to do a training about the census and rural communities for librarians.
- 3) Train libraries in doing a Community Assessment to identify service gaps.
- 4) Use of the Community Assessment in creating strategic plans that incorporate equity and/or adding an equity plan for libraries that are in the midst of an existing strategic plan cycle.
- 5) Select a few libraries as case studies we could use as training models for the larger library community.

ESOPUS provides free Artbook donations to Vermont Libraries for Vermonters (LIB): The Esopus Foundation with the mission of providing an unmediated forum through which artists, writers, musicians, and other creative people can make a direct connection with the general public donated Artbooks to libraries in Weston, West Hartford, Winhall, Colchester, and St. Johnsbury. <https://www.esopus.org/>

The Cobra-Ferrari Wars 1963-1965, Second Edition Book will be available to public and school libraries for free (LIB): Remaining cost conscious and contemporary with the newly released movie, the Department of Libraries is offering school and public libraries free copies through the Reader to Reader program. Reader to Reader, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to bringing books, free of charge, to school libraries and public libraries across the United States and beyond.

Internal Priorities for the Department of Libraries

- VTLIB presented a meet and greet session for academic & collegiate libraries during the Vermont Library Association College & Special Libraries Fall Program. The topic of the conference was People at the Center: User Focused Librarianship.
- In reconnecting with academic libraries and understanding their needs. VTLIB was provided with insight into the needs of small academic libraries as compared to large universities. The request for a roundtable to discuss substance abuse in higher education is considered timely. VTLIB is reviewing options to make this request possible in the future. A second topic of conversation is a general understanding of Narcan and its uses. This was interesting for VTLIB as it was felt that most institutions would have inhouse resources to assist their staffs.

State of Vermont Complete Count Committee: The VCCC's second meeting was held at the Rutland Free Library, Rutland, on January 22nd. Takeaways from the meeting are: Many Local Complete Count Committees (CCC) are already implementing actions to address hard to count populations across the state; Regional Census officials are working with state and local CCC's to address strategic low and no response tracts across Vermont; The Census officially has started in Alaska and Northern Maine; and alignment and coordination of promotional census messaging across stakeholders and CCC's. Meeting minutes will be posted by the 29th of January

